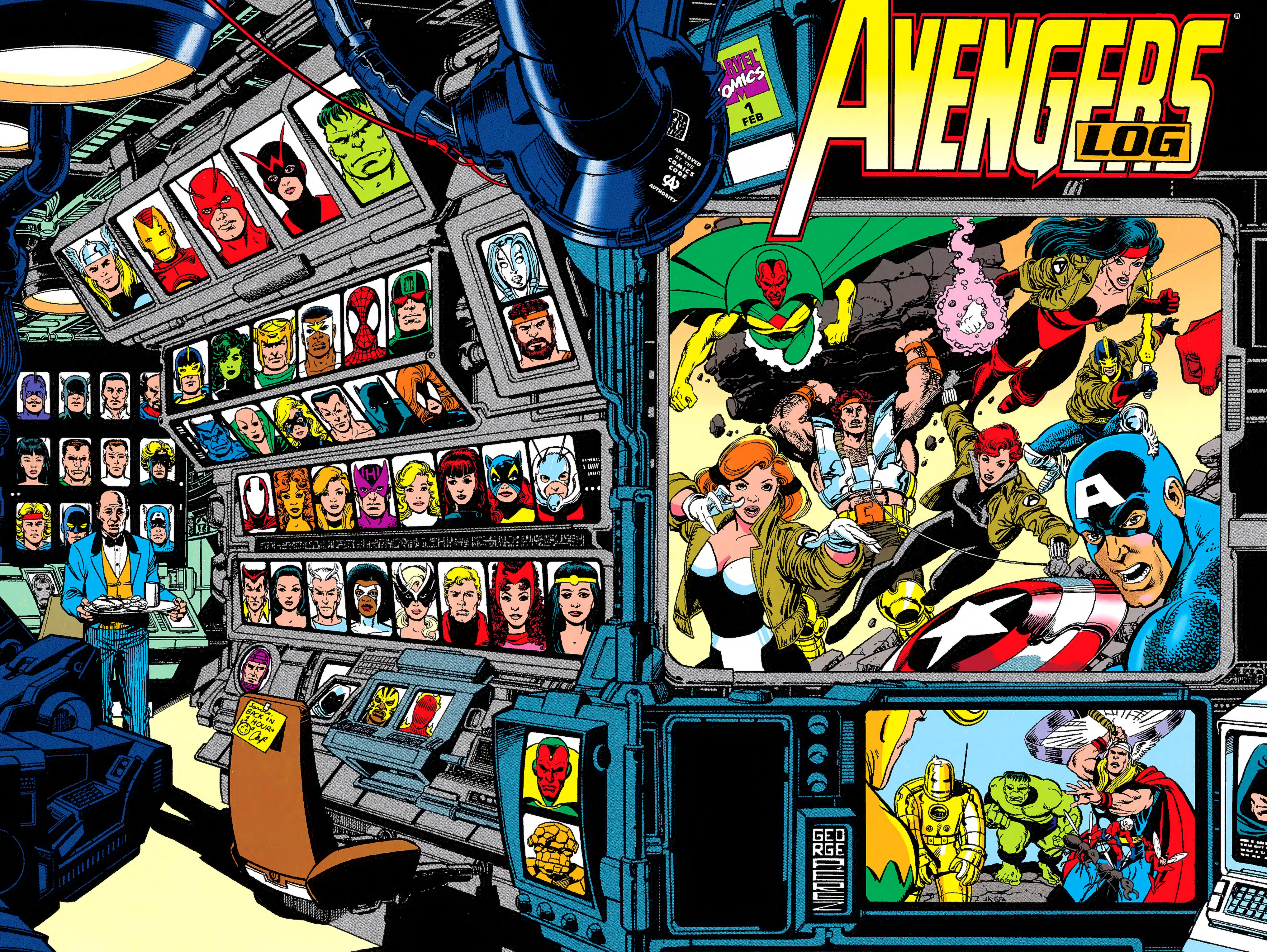


AVENGERS LOG



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

The Avengers is one of Earth's leading organizations of costumed superhuman adventurers dedicated to protecting humankind from threats beyond the ability of conventional police and military forces to handle.

Only the Fantastic Four, founded several months before the Avengers, exceeds the team in longevity, rivals it in sheer power, and in its record of success. But whereas the Fantastic Four has limited its membership to its four original members (and the occasional temporary substitute), the ranks of the Avengers have continually been in flux, and many of the best-known American-based superhuman crimefighters have belonged to the group at some point.

Unlike the X-Men, who have often been considered outlaws, the Avengers has always operated publicly, almost always with the approval of the American public. Unlike more recently founded teams, such as the United States's X-Factor and Canada's Alpha Flight, the Avengers is not an official arm of any government. However, it was the first team of superhumans to be granted official government sanctions by the National Security Council of the United States and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Avengers originally formed by accident. Loki, the Norse god of evil, believed that the monstrous Hulk would make a pawn powerful enough to defeat his hated foster brother, the thunder god Thor, in combat. Thus, Loki framed the Hulk for nearly wrecking a train, believing Thor would come to capture this new menace. Believing the Hulk to be innocent, his teenage friend Rick Jones sent a radio call to the Fantastic Four for help. Loki diverted the message to Thor, but it was also picked up by Iron Man, the original Ant-Man, and the Wasp, three of the first "super heroes" of the post-World War II era. As a result, these four heroes met each other for the first time. They caught up with the Hulk, but Thor soon exposed and defeated the real troublemaker, Loki. Inspired by their first meeting, Ant-Man proposed that the five of them, including the Hulk, form a permanent team. The heroes all agreed, and the Wasp dubbed them "the Avengers."



Iron Man was secretly the multimillionaire industrialist Anthony Stark, who has been the team's financial benefactor from the very start. He donated his mansion on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue as their headquarters, and persuaded his servant, Edwin Jarvis, to become their butler, a role he has fulfilled ever since. Stark also established the Maria Stark Foundation, named in memory of his mother, to cover the Avengers' operating expenses. The Foundation operates independently of Tony Stark's own businesses, and hence has remained solvent even when Stark himself once fell destitute.

The Hulk soon quit the Avengers, but he was quickly replaced by their first recruit, the legendary hero of World War II, Captain America, who became the first Avenger to take up full-time residence in the mansion. When the other members retired from the team, it was new chairman Captain America who forged three new recruits, the former criminals Hawkeye, Quicksilver, and the Scarlet Witch, into a team that was a worthy successor to the founders.



The Avengers grew in number over the years, eventually winning the greatest victory of their early history intervening in the Kree-Skrull War, a struggle between two galactic empires that threatened to engulf the Earth, and brought it to an end.

The United States government sanctioned the Avengers' activities, gave them special privileges, such as allowing them to launch aircraft from their Manhattan headquarters, and even gave them access to high security information. However, once the National Security Council appointed Henry Peter Gyrich to serve as the federal liaison with the Avengers, the relationship between the government and the Assemblers began to worsen. Threatening to withhold their special privileges, Gyrich even insisted on restrictions on Avengers' membership. Although Gyrich was eventually replaced as liaison by the more moderate Raymond Sikorski, tensions persisted.

While the Vision served as chairman, he assigned Hawkeye to found a new West Coast division of the Avengers, so that the organization could better respond to threats west of the Rocky Mountains. Hawkeye's new team made its base at a compound in Palos Verdes, California, south of Los Angeles, and would operate for several years.

However, there soon followed some of the darkest moments of Avengers' history. Under the influence of the alien computer ISAAC, the Vision attempted to take control of the world's computer networks. He abandoned his plan, but the United States government retaliated by revoking many of the Avengers' special privileges. Subsequently, the temporarily insane former Avenger Quicksilver convinced the National Security Council that the Avengers had turned traitors. As a result, the NSC had both the East and West Coast teams incarcerated in the high security prison known as the Vault. However, the Avengers soon escaped and cleared their names.

Shortly afterwards, the new Masters of Evil, a large band of superhuman criminals, took over Avengers Mansion, brutally injured Hercules and Jarvis, and held Captain America and the Black Knight hostage. Under the Wasp's leadership, the Avengers defeated the Masters, but the mansion lay in ruins. The Avengers soon established a new East Coast headquarters on Hydrobase, an artificial island floating off the Atlantic coast.

Then, however, a new member, the sorcerer Doctor Druid, fell under the influence of a seductress who was actually Ravonna the Terminatrix. She manipulated Druid into using his mental powers to control the other members and make himself team leader. After Druid's perfidy was revealed, the remaining active Avengers dissolved the team.

Almost immediately afterwards, though, Captain America reorganized the Avengers under his leadership. Loki, still enraged that he had indirectly been responsible for the Avengers' existence, manipulated numerous superhuman menaces into attacking the Avengers. Although Loki did not succeed in destroying the Avengers, in the course of these "Acts of Vengeance," Hydrobase was sunk by Doctor Doom's robot army. The Avengers temporarily moved into the still intact basement complex of the old Avengers Mansion and set about building the present Avengers Mansion, which is not a townhouse like the old one but a futuristic complex with state-of-the-art technology.

The Avengers' problems handling its relationship with the United States government came to an end when they received a new charter from the United Nations to serve as a special peacekeeping force against threats to humanity that were not instigated by a member nation.

But then came an ominous turning point in Avengers' history. From the beginning, one of the foremost precepts of the Avengers' code was that they were forbidden to kill. Some members, such as Black Widow and Mockingbird, had challenged this rule. But the crisis point came during "Operation: Galactic Storm," when the Avengers intervened in an intergalactic war between two alien races, the Kree and the Shi'ar, that threatened the safety of Earth. The Kree Supreme Intelligence, a being comprised of computers and the preserved brains of past Kree, slaughtered most of his own population with the detonation of a "nega-bomb," as part of a plan





of Kree rebirth. Outraged, many of the Avengers demanded to destroy the Supreme Intelligence, arguing that the entity was not truly alive and its crimes demanded such retribution. Over the heated protests of Captain America and several other Avengers, roughly half the team present joined in killing the Supreme Intelligence. (Ironically, they only destroyed his physical form, and his consciousness survived.)

Months later, when the Avengers battled Fabian Cortez and his Genoshan followers, dissension broke out between the East and West Coast teams. The end result was the disbanding of the Avengers West Coast, some of whose members then founded their own team, Force Works. Thus, the Avengers is once more a united team based in New York City, facing a world that seems darker and more threatening than it did when the team was founded. But the Avengers remain, now, as then, the world's mightiest team of super-powered champions, ready to take on and defeat whatever threat to humanity may arise.

Active members of the Avengers have the option of living at Avengers Mansion, where their room and board are provided free. If they choose to do so, they can also accept a weekly salary, paid by the Maria Stark Foundation.

Avengers carry unique identification cards that attest to their special status with the United Nations, enabling them to obtain the cooperation of law enforcement authorities in all member nations. The cards also serve as miniaturized communications devices, which can transmit not only voices but also televised pictures of the speakers.

The Avengers' best known vehicles are their supersonic Quinjets, built by Stark Enterprises. Modified Quinjets have proved capable of travel into outer space.

The Avengers are assisted by a large support team, the "Avengers Crew," headed by Edwin Jarvis, who maintain the headquarters, its equipment and vehicles in full working order, and handle matters such as security and communications.

This guidebook to the Avengers consists of two parts. The first contains brief biographies of the many individuals who have served as members of the team. These are followed by a comprehensive list and brief descriptions of many of the allies and adversaries that the Avengers have encountered over the years, with expanded histories of several of the Avengers' most dangerous and frequent adversaries.



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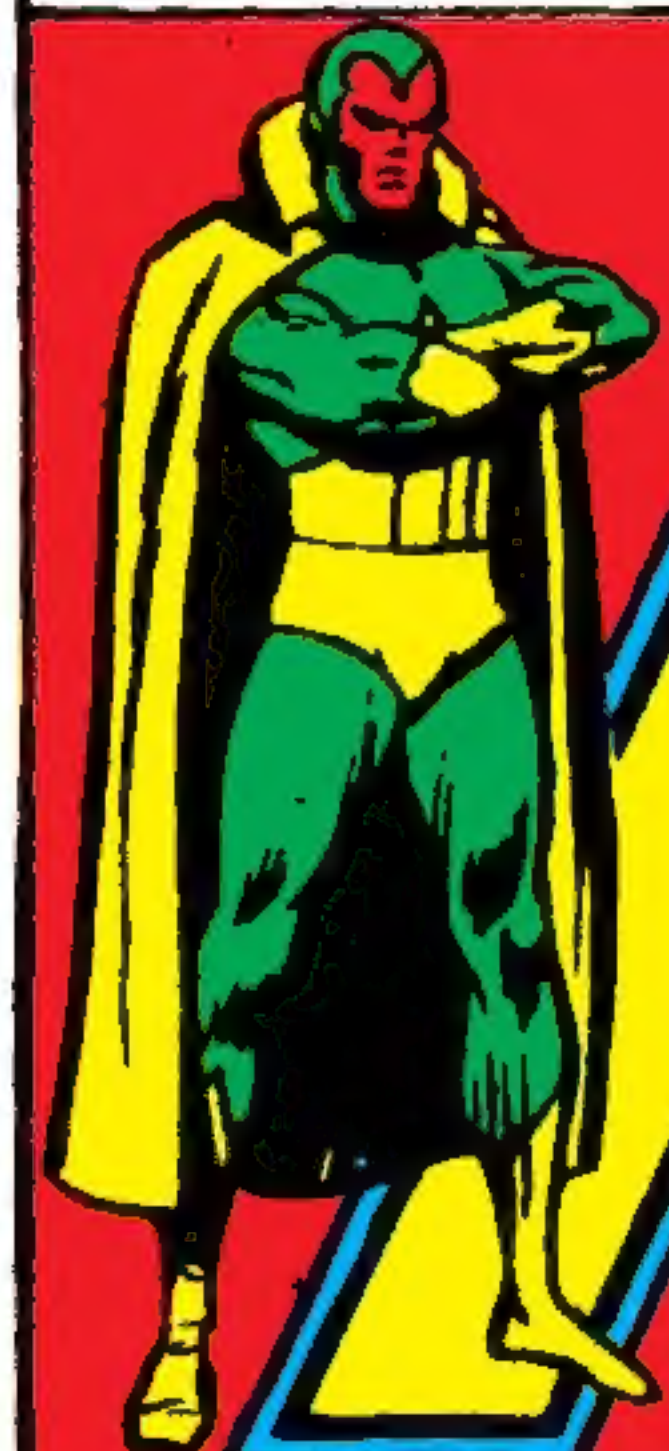
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BEAST

One of the original members of the X-Men, Henry P. "Hank" McCoy, was a mutant gifted with superhuman agility, not to mention unusually large hands and feet.

McCoy left the X-Men to pursue a career as a biochemistry researcher with the "think tank" known as the Brand Corporation. It was there that he rather foolishly drank a mutagenic serum that made him truly bestial in appearance, giving him sharp fangs, pointed ears, and blue fur all over his body. At first McCoy tried desperately to conceal his dual identity from the world.

Eventually, though, the Beast's high spirits resurfaced, and he came not only to accept but to enjoy his animal-like appearance. He received provisional membership with the Avengers and after several months, was granted full membership status. His closest friend during his sojourn with the Avengers was the recently revived Wonder Man.

The Beast finally moved on from the Avengers, initially taking the opportunity to reorganize another super hero team, the Defenders. When that group collapsed, the Beast joined the other original X-Men in establishing the first organization known as X-Factor. Upon the return of their mentor, Professor Charles Xavier, from his long travels in outer space with the Starjammers, the founding members of X-Factor I rejoined Xavier's organization, the X-Men.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #53, (as member) AVENGERS #137

BLACK KNIGHT III

Dane Whitman, the present day Black Knight, is the descendant and heir to Sir Percy of Scandia, the legendary Black Knight who was the foremost champion of King Arthur of Camelot.

Sir Percy's mentor, the magician Merlin, gave the Knight an enchanted black blade, made from a meteoric metal that was virtually indestructible. But the blade also had a strange curse: If its wielder used the blade to kill, then its curse would begin to corrupt him, urging him to commit further acts of bloodshed.

The original Black Knight was slain by the mortally wounded Mordred when Camelot at last fell to its foes. But his heritage and the Ebony Blade were passed down through his descendants. The curse of the blade alternated in claiming victims among the Knight's descendants: a Black Knight who fought for good would be followed by a Black Knight who turned to evil.

So it was that Dane Whitman's uncle, the American scientist Professor Nathan Garrett, turned to crime. Visiting his ancestral British estate, Garrett Castle, he encountered the ghost of Sir Percy, who challenged him to draw the Ebony Blade from a scabbard near his tomb. Professor Garrett failed the test, but on returning to America, he became the armored criminal known as the Black Knight.

Garrett devised his own advanced scientific weapons, disguising them as medieval armament, such as a lance that fired destructive energy blasts. He also mutated a horse, giving it wings that enabled it to carry him aloft through the air. This criminal Black Knight became a formidable enemy of



Giant-Man, Iron Man, and their fellow Avengers.

But in his final clash with Iron Man, the evil Black Knight toppled from the back of his winged horse and fell to the water below. Mortally injured, Garrett managed to get to a telephone to summon his sole living relative, Dane Whitman. On his deathbed the repentant Garrett made Whitman vow to redeem the name of the Black Knight by using his inventions and scientific discoveries for good.

Whitman decided to carry out his uncle's wishes by becoming a new Black Knight who would combat crime. Using Garrett's methods he mutated another horse, Aragorn, to give it wings and modified his uncle's power lance.

In his first mission as the new Black Knight, Whitman went to alert the Avengers that Magneto had captured two of their number. But the team mistook Whitman for his uncle, and they ended up battling one another.

A short time afterwards, the Black Knight infiltrated the new Masters of Evil organized by Ultron and thus was able to aid the Avengers against them. From now on the Avengers regarded this successor to their longtime foe as their ally.

Whitman cast aside Garrett's scientific weaponry after he made his own journey to their ancestral castle. Here he, too, encountered the spirit of Sir Percy, but unlike his corrupt uncle, Whitman was successful in drawing the Ebony Blade from its scabbard. From now on the new Black Knight used the mystical sword as his weapon, and soon employed it in combat with Mordred's modern day pawn, Le Sabre.

The Black Knight again assisted the Avengers in doing battle against the Asgardian monsters Surtur and Ymir. Not too long afterwards, the Knight single-handedly saved the entire Avengers team from death at the hands of Kang the Conqueror. On the spot the grateful Avengers made the Knight a member by unanimous acclamation. Preferring to remain at Garrett Castle in England, the Black Knight chose to become a reservist.

Months later the Avengers' enemy the Enchantress, magically turned the Black Knight to stone. Brunnhilda the Valkyrie, a member of the Defenders, took possession of Aragorn. Strangely enough, Whitman's spirit left its stone body and traveled back in time to take possession of the body of his 12th Century A. D. ancestor, Sir Eobar Garrington, the Black Knight who fought alongside King Richard the Lionhearted in the Crusades.

The demands of warfare meant that Whitman slew scores of adversaries during the Crusades, and the horrors of killing took its toll on the Knight's peace of mind. Worse, it made the curse of the Ebony Blade ever stronger, forcing Whitman to remain in the Twelfth Century to wreak further bloodshed in Richard's name.

After his Crusade ended, the Knight allied himself with Amergin, a god of the mystical realm of Avalon and ancestor of Doctor Druid, against his foes, the Fomor. The Avengers journeyed back in time and helped the Knight in sealing off the portal between Earth and Avalon. In the process, however, Eobar Garrington's body was destroyed and Whitman would again have been left as a disembodied spirit had Amergin not acted. Casting a spell across the centuries, Amergin restored Whitman's spirit to his original body and transformed it from stone back to flesh. The mage also mystically transported a new winged steed, Valinor, and the Ebony Blade to the Twentieth Century.

But Whitman only outwardly seemed back to normal. The Ebony Blade's blood curse still held sway over his mind, and it was necessary for the sorcerer Doctor Strange to intervene to save him. At Strange's bidding Whitman plunged the blade into Sir Percy's mystical Brazier of Truth, shattering it and purging the Blade of the taint of the blood it had spilled.

Since Garrett Castle had been purchased in his absence by Strange's friend Victoria Bentley, Whitman returned to America and became an active member of the East Coast Avengers. Instead of Valinor, the Knight now rode one of the flying mechanical "atomic steeds" used by the High Evolutionary's Knights of Wundagore.

He thought himself at last free of the curse, but he was quite wrong. When Namor was forced to use the Blade to slay his bride Marrina, who had transformed into a monster, the curse was renewed. Even though the Knight had not been the one to spill blood, the curse slowly began transforming him into the same mystical metal of which the Blade itself was made. Finally the Knight became entirely paralyzed, as inert as he had been when turned to stone.

Victoria Bentley saved the Knight when she placed the helmet of Sir Percy upon his head. Now Sir Percy's spirit took possession of Whitman's body, restoring it to mobility. Using it, Sir Percy

fought a new battle against the spirits of his ancient nemeses Mordred and Morgan Le Fey, assisted by his newfound "squire" Sean Dolan. With his foes defeated once more, Sir Percy's spirit entered the Blade, neutralizing the curse and returning Whitman to normal.

Whitman returned to the East Coast Avengers, and has recently become emotionally involved with both Crystal and Sersi. He now wields a laser sword of his own invention that contains neural inhibitors that can stun an opponent without killing him. As for the Ebony Blade, it fell into the hands of Sean Dolan, causing him to transform into a new, evil version of the Black Knight known as the Blood Wraith.

Recently, since Sersi was becoming mentally unstable, her fellow Eternal Ikaris mentally bonded her with the Black Knight, making him her "gann josin," a term roughly translated as "soul mate." First appearance: AVENGERS #47



BLACK PANTHER

The king of the small African country of Wakanda, T'Challa became a brilliant scientist and inventor through his studies in Europe and America and has transformed his kingdom into one of the world's wealthiest and most technologically advanced nations. He is also the wearer of the sacred garb of Wakanda's costumed champion, the Black Panther, having gained enhanced physical strength and agility from an unusual herb and his spiritual link with the Wakandan panther deity.

After the Panther teamed with Captain America against an impostor posing as Baron Heinrich Zemo, the Captain recommended to the Avengers that the Panther be his replacement in the Avengers. On arriving at Avengers Mansion, the Panther was mistaken by the police for the assassin who had seemingly murdered Hawkeye, Goliath I, and the Wasp. But the Panther found and defeated the true culprit, the Grim Reaper, and used the latter's scythe to revive the three Avengers from their death-like coma. Gratefully, Hawkeye, Goliath, and the Wasp immediately swore the Panther in as their newest member.

The Black Panther remained on active duty with the Avengers for years, even adopting an American secret identity as inner city schoolteacher Luke Charles. Strangely enough, the American public was not even aware that the Black Panther was the first black Avenger until the fact was publicly re-

vealed on television during the Avengers' second conflict with the Sons of the Serpent.

In recent years the Black Panther has spent the great majority of his time in Wakanda, devoting himself to his duties there as its monarch. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #52



BLACK WIDOW

A descendant of the Russian Czars, Soviet citizen Natalia "Natasha" Romanova won fame as a brilliant ballerina and as the wife of noted test pilot Alexi Shostakov. The KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency and secret police, decided to enlist the Shostakovs as special agents. They secretly trained Alexi Shostakov to become the new Red Guardian, a Soviet costumed champion, while telling his wife he had died. When Natasha said she wished to do something with her life that was worthy of her husband's memory, the KGB set about training her to become the master spy known as the Black Widow. In this new role Romanova became known not only for her Olympic-level abilities as an athlete and acrobat but also for her trademark weapons, the bracelets that emitted electrical shocks called her "widow's bite."

In the United States the Black Widow continually schemed to undermine Stark Industries only to be repeatedly thwarted by Stark himself in his armored guise of Iron Man. She manipulated Hawkeye, who was also an adversary of Iron Man, into assisting her, playing on the archer's strong attraction to her. But the Widow found herself falling in love with Hawkeye, and he finally refused to help her any longer, and was granted federal amnesty on joining the Avengers.

The Widow herself had grown disillusioned with her Communist masters, but she was soon captured and brainwashed by agents of the People's Republic of China. On their orders she led the Swordsman and Power Man I in attacking the Avengers, but finally broke free of her mental conditioning. She and Hawkeye once again became lovers, she defected to the United States, and she assisted the Avengers against the Sons of the Serpent and the alien Ixar. Hawkeye, though, was taken aback when the Widow forced Ixar to surrender by threatening to kill him, since the Avengers code strictly forbade killing.

Hawkeye and the Avengers subsequently invaded mainland China to rescue the Widow, who had gone there on a mission for SHIELD. There she encountered her husband, the Red Guardian,

who died in saving her life.

Eventually the Widow and Hawkeye ended their love affair, and for a time she was the lover and crimefighting partner of Daredevil. It was during the latter period that she was finally officially inducted into the Avengers. However, perhaps because she was now based in California, she chose instead to work with the short-lived Champions of Los Angeles.

Following the Champions' collapse the Black Widow returned to her work as a freelance agent, most often undertaking missions for SHIELD. Recently the Black Widow has become a full-time member of the East Coast Avengers. Ironically enough, this former Russian spy has become a close aide and confidante to Captain America in directing the team.

First Avengers appearance: (as adversary) AVENGERS #29, (as ally) AVENGERS #32, (as member) AVENGERS #112

CAPTAIN AMERICA

A young artist who grew up during the Great Depression of the 1930s, Steve Rogers was a passionate idealist who sought to join the United States Armed Forces in the hope of helping to stop the aggression of Hitler's Germany. Turned down due to his physical frailty, Rogers showed an intense patriotism that impressed a general who recruited him as a volunteer for the secret "Operation: Rebirth."

Through the "Super-Soldier Serum" and intense training, Rogers achieved the pinnacle of human physical perfection. He became a special costumed operative of the United States government known as Captain America. His greatest weapon was his virtually indestructible shield, composed of a unique alloy never since duplicated. Alone, in partnership with his teenage ally Bucky Barnes, and as a member of the team of costumed champions called the Invaders, Captain America waged war against the Axis powers and became the greatest hero of World War II.

During the final days of Hitler's Reich, Captain America and Bucky tried to prevent the Nazi scientist Baron Heinrich Zemo from capturing an experimental drone plane from England to Germany. The pair of heroes was trying to stop the plane after Zemo launched it when it exploded, killing Bucky and hurling Captain America into Arctic waters, where, thanks to the Super-Soldier Formula's effects, he went into suspended animation, remaining young as many years passed.

Decades later, the Sub-Mariner came across Eskimos worshipping the figure of a man frozen in ice. Not recognizing Captain America, the Sub-Mariner hurled the block of ice into the sea, where it drifted southward and melted. Captain America was found by the Avengers, who were pursuing the Sub-Mariner in a submarine, and soon revived. Feeling out of place in the contemporary world, Captain America found new friends and allies as a member of the newly formed Avengers.

Several months after he joined, Captain America discovered that the other Avengers had decided to leave the team. Thus Captain America became the leader of the second generation of Avengers, made up of former criminals Hawkeye, Quicksilver, and the Scarlet Witch. At first the hot-tempered threesome often bridled at taking orders from their new leader, but Captain America nevertheless kept the new team together until they became a worthy successor to the original Avengers.

As time passed and the Avengers gained both old and new members, Captain America no longer participated in every Avengers case, and eventually resigned the chairmanship. Still, Captain



America has never been absent from the Avengers for very long. The two most notable exceptions came when Captain America temporarily gave up his usual costumed identity, first from disillusionment with the federal government, and years later when the government briefly replaced him in the role of Captain America with John Walker, now known as the USAgent.

During the latter period, however, Steve Rogers, then known simply as "the Captain," again worked with the Avengers to defeat the Super-Adaptoid. Though the East Coast Avengers soon disbanded, the Captain gathered a team of reservists to combat the High Evolutionary, and then organized a brand new permanent East Coast team. Some months later, having returned to his Captain America identity, he undertook an overall reorganization of both Avengers teams, with himself serving once again as East Coast chairman.

Recently, during the Kree-Shi'ar War, Captain America underwent serious challenges to his leadership, first when Iron Man overruled him on tactics, and later, when half the Avengers who accompanied him into space defied his wishes and tried to destroy the Kree Supreme Intelligence. Captain America has since stepped down as chairman but still remains on call.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #4

CAPTAIN MARVEL II

New Orleans harbor patrol lieutenant Monica Rambeau was attempting to destroy a South American dictator's energy disruptor weapon when it irradiated her with energy from another dimension. As a result, Rambeau gained the ability to transform herself into any form of electromagnetic energy at will while retaining her human sentience. Deciding to use her new powers to help humanity, Rambeau resigned from the harbor patrol and became the costumed crimefighter Captain Marvel II.

Seeking help in ridding herself of excess energies, Captain Marvel II sought out the help of the Avengers. The Wasp invited her to become an Avenger-in-training. Captain Marvel II worked so well as a member of the team that she not only soon became a full member, but even succeeded the Wasp as chairman of the East Coast team.

During the Avengers' battle against the Leviathan (the Sub-Mariner's wife Marrina, who had transformed into a reptilian monster), Captain Marvel II transformed herself into electrical energy hoping to stun the creature. Accidentally making contact with the ocean, she dissipated most of her energy form. With great difficulty, she regained her organic form, which was now so thin and exhausted she nearly died.



Rambeau returned to New Orleans, where she eventually regained her normal weight and health and resumed her Captain Marvel identity. She soon discovered that her superhuman powers had greatly altered. Now she could create a dimensional interface around her body that gave her great protection from impacts, increased her strength to superhuman levels, and enabled her to fly.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #227

CRYSTAL

Crystalia Amaquelin Maximoff, better known as Crystal, is a member of the Royal Family of the Inhumans, an offshoot of humanity that underwent genetic experimentation by the alien Kree in pre-historic times. As a result the Inhuman race evolved far more rapidly than normal humanity, and had built a highly advanced civilization while human beings still dwelt in caves.

The Inhumans' most significant scientific discovery was the chemical Terrigen, which could induce mutations. Crystal's mother was exposed to Terrigen Mist while pregnant, with the result that Crystal was born with superhuman abilities. Crystal is an Inhuman "elemental" who can mentally control what human alchemists called the four basic "elements" of nature: fire, air, earth, and water.

When Crystal was only a small child, her cousin Black Bolt was driven from the throne of the Inhumans' city Attilan by his evil brother Maximus. Crystal went into exile with Black Bolt, her sister Medusa, and their cousins Gorgon, Karnak, and Triton. Also accompanying them was Crystal's loyal companion Lockjaw, an immense dog who had the power to teleport himself and others.

For nearly ten years the Royal Family wandered the globe. Medusa became separated from the others, suffered amnesia, and fell under the influence of the criminal Wizard. The other Royal Family members' search for Medusa brought them to New York City, where Crystal, now grown to adolescence, encountered Johnny Storm, the Fantastic Four's Human Torch.

Storm and Crystal fell in love at first sight, but were separated by the other Royal Family members, who transported her back to Attilan, where Black Bolt seized the crown from Maximus. The Fantastic Four followed them there, but narrowly escaped just before Maximus sealed the city within a virtually impenetrable force barrier.

Weeks later Black Bolt used his vast sonic powers to shatter the barrier, and Crystal was reunited with Storm in New York City. When Susan Richards became pregnant, Crystal temporarily took her place in the Fantastic Four.

During her extended stay in the outside world, Crystal began falling ill due to the Inhumans' unusual vulnerability to urban air pollution. Returning to Attilan with Lockjaw, Crystal came across Quicksilver, who had been mortally injured in the Avengers' battle with the Sentinels. She brought him to Attilan, where she nursed him back to health and where the two of them fell in love.

The Avengers attended the wedding of Crystal and Quicksilver in Attilan, the first known marriage of a human and Inhuman. They soon had a daughter, Luna, whom Crystal decided not to expose to the mutagenic Terrigen Mist. Eventually, to escape the air pollution encroaching even on their Himalayan city, the Inhumans moved Attilan to the Blue Area of the Moon, which the Kree had long ago endowed with a habitable environment.

As the years passed Crystal's relationship with the moody, fiery-tempered Quicksilver grew strained, and Crystal spent more time on Earth,



finally embarking upon an affair with Norm Webster, a real estate agent based in Leonia, New Jersey. Quicksilver's fury on discovering her betrayal made him more vulnerable to Maximus's mental manipulation, which pushed him over the edge into insanity. Quicksilver abandoned Attilan and embarked on attacks against the Avengers.

Crystal, on the other hand, accepted the Thing's invitation to rejoin the Fantastic Four during the extended absence of Reed and Susan Richards. Thanks to a special serum she no longer had to fear the effects of pollution on her health.

Eventually, however, Black Bolt commanded Crystal's return to Attilan and her reconciliation with Quicksilver, who had regained his sanity. Crystal was deeply unhappy with Black Bolt's decision, and tensions persisted between her and her husband. Both she and Quicksilver separately left for Earth, where he joined the newly reorganized X-Factor. Crystal, on the other hand, went to New York and joined the Avengers. She currently lives at Avengers Mansion along with her daughter Luna and Luna's bad-tempered nanny Marilla. Recently Crystal has found herself attracted to the Black Knight, who has been torn between her and Sersi.

First Avengers appearance: (as ally) AVENGERS

#60, (as member) AVENGERS #336

DOCTOR DRUID

The world's leading authority on ancient Celtic mystical lore, Doctor Anthony Druid also possessed latent supernatural abilities that were activated by the Ancient One, the Asian mystic who later became the mentor of Earth's greatest sorcerer, Doctor Strange.

Learning of Baron Zemo II's takeover of Avengers Mansion, Doctor Druid went to the scene to offer the Avengers his assistance and soon became an official member of the East Coast team.

Very soon, though, Druid began to fall under the influence of Ravonna the Terminatrix, who then masqueraded as the space pirate Nebula and seduced Druid through dreams and visions. On her orders he used his mental powers to manipulate the other active East Coast members into electing him chairman. Ravonna then mentally compelled the Avengers to accompany her into the time-stream to locate an ultimate weapon hidden in an alternate future. The other Avengers threw off her mental control, and Ravonna and Druid became lost for a time in alternate dimensions. Finally, Druid rebelled against Ravonna and returned to his own time and place, having undergone a physical rejuvenation in the process.

Deeply repentant for betraying the Avengers, Doctor Druid began to redeem himself in their eyes by aiding Captain America against the evil Druid Dredmund Cromwell and by helping the Avengers during the Infinity War and in their invasion of Chronopolis. Rather than seeking to return to the Avengers on a full-time basis, though, Doctor Druid has instead recently chosen to found his own team, the Shock Troop, which he leads in combat against supernatural menaces.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #276, (as member) AVENGERS #278

FALCON

The son of a minister in Manhattan's Harlem, Sam Wilson underwent a severe personality change after his father's death and became a racketeer. Eventually, he came to the notice of the Nazi war criminal the Red Skull, who endowed him with a telepathic link with his trained falcon Redwing, hoping to use them both as pawns against Captain America.

In fact, Sam became the costumed crimefighter



known as the Falcon, and for many years was Captain America's crimefighting partner. Eventually, the Black Panther presented the Falcon with a costume with jet-powered glider wings that enabled him to fly like his namesake.

One of the demands made on the Avengers by federal government agent Henry Peter Gyrich was that they take on more minority members. Hence, he insisted that they induct the Falcon. However, the Falcon was deeply ambivalent about joining as a result of government pressure, and resigned from active duty as soon as he could.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #88, (as member) AVENGERS #183

GIANT-MAN I (A. K. A. ANT-MAN I, DOCTOR PYM, GOLIATH I, YELLOWJACKET I)

One of the Avengers' founders, Dr. Henry Pym, was perhaps its most reluctant member. A brilliant biochemist with great expertise in many other fields as well, Pym would probably have remained in academia for his entire life had his wife Maria, an Eastern European dissident, not been murdered by Communist secret police. Distraught, Pym vowed to do whatever he could to combat injustice.

Later, Pym discovered the subatomic particles now known as "Pym particles," which can reduce or enlarge the size of living beings and objects. He also invented a cybernetic helmet that enabled him to communicate mentally with ants. Eventually Pym began fighting criminals and subversives in the costumed guise of the original Ant-Man, who could shrink to the size of the ants he commanded. Later Pym met Janet van Dyne, whom he endowed with superhuman powers and who became his crimefighting partner, the Wasp. They also soon fell in love with each other.

Shortly after helping to found the Avengers, Pym learned to use the "Pym particles" to increase his size to gigantic proportions, and thus became the original Giant-Man.

But Pym found that his size-changing imposed dangerous stress on his body, and, moreover, he feared for Van Dyne's safety in their joint crime-fighting career. Hence, Pym quit the Avengers, and Van Dyne followed him into retirement.

Months later, however, Pym used his size-changing power again in his new identity, that of the original Goliath, to join the Avengers in rescuing the Wasp from captivity by Attuma and the Col-



lector. Remaining at giant size for too long, Pym found himself trapped at a height of ten feet. He continued as an active Avenger, however, while searching for a cure along with his assistant, Dr. Bill Foster, who would years later use the Pym particles to become the second Giant-Man.

While experimenting with robotics during this period, Pym created the sentient robot Ultron, who rebelled against his creator and became one of Pym and the Avengers' deadliest enemies.

Although he loved Van Dyne, the emotionally inhibited Pym resisted marrying her. Moreover, his continual change of costumed identities hinted at psychological instability that finally overwhelmed him when he was exposed to unknown gases. They unleashed the repressed side of his personality, and Pym took on a new secret identity, that of the original Yellowjacket, who demanded to marry Van Dyne. Realizing who he really was, Van Dyne married Yellowjacket, who soon regained his normal personality. From then on, Pym continued using the Yellowjacket identity, and the Wasp and other Avengers believed that his psychological problems were over.

As if unable to decide between his two careers, Pym divided the following years between his re-

search and his work with the Avengers. He allowed Hawkeye to assume his Goliath identity and Scott Lang to become the new Ant-Man. But as time passed, Pym sank into guilt over creating the dangerous Ultron, depression over what he believed were his failures as a scientist, and envious frustration of his wife's monetary success as a fashion designer. He was on the verge of a nervous breakdown, and subsequent crises pushed him over the brink.

The first came during the Avengers' combat against the Elfqueen when Yellowjacket shot her with electrical blasts from behind while Captain America was attempting to make peace with her. As a result, the Avengers charged Pym with reckless behavior. Pym created a robot to attack the Avengers, intending to prove himself a hero by defeating it himself. But the robot went out of control, the Avengers expelled Pym, and Van Dyne initiated divorce proceedings against him. Subsequently, Pym's archenemy Egghead forced him to steal adamantium from the federal government. Captured by the Avengers, Pym was unable to prove Egghead's involvement, and was jailed to await trial for treason.

During the trial Egghead had his new Masters of



Evil abduct Pym to force him to join them. Instead, Pym defeated the Masters of Evil, who subsequently testified to Pym's innocence. His name cleared, Pym decided to retire from costumed adventuring.

But Pym could not tear himself away from the Avengers. He became manager and resident scientist of the new West Coast Avengers' Compound. Yet he still was unable to pull himself out of his psychological decline, and was narrowly prevented from committing suicide by Firebird.

Under her guidance Pym overcame his feelings of failure and inferiority. He returned to the ranks of the Avengers in a non-costumed guise, using his size-changing power to enlarge or shrink other persons or things, not himself. Pym has reconciled with the Wasp, who is now his best friend.

Pym left active duty with the Avengers West Coast prior to its disbanding and rejoined the East Coast Avengers team. He again began using his power to increase his own size and reassumed his costumed identity of Giant-Man I.

First Avengers appearance: (as Ant-Man I) AVENGERS #1, (as Giant-Man) AVENGERS #2, (as Goliath I) AVENGERS #28, (as Yellowjacket I) AVENGERS #59, (as Doctor Pym) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #21

GILGAMESH

The legendary monster-slayer today known as Gilgamesh is a member of the Eternals, a superhuman evolutionary offshoot of humanity that was created through genetic manipulation by the enigmatic alien Celestials. For thousands of years Gilgamesh has wandered the Earth, doing battle with various menaces to humanity, especially monsters. Many of the heroes of the mythologies of various civilizations were actually Gilgamesh. Indeed, the name "Gilgamesh" is the one given him in the ancient Babylonian heroic epic, one of the earliest pieces of literature that still survives today.

Gilgamesh possesses superhuman strength that rivals even that of Hercules, as well as virtual indestructibility. Like other Eternals he can levitate himself and project heat and concussive force from his eyes and hands.

At some point Gilgamesh was condemned by Zuras, leader of the Eternals, for what has been described as a sin of pride and for intervening too much in the affairs of normal human beings. Zuras therefore sentenced him to exile in an otherwise deserted sector of the Eternals' principal city of Olympia. There Gilgamesh remained for many years, known only as the Forgotten One.

Recently, however, he emerged from seclusion to journey into space to thwart an attack on the Celestials' mothership by the Eternals' perennial nemeses, the Deviants. Gilgamesh was granted an audience with the Celestials and returned to Earth as their emissary.

Learning of the "Inferno" invasion of Manhattan by demons from the dimension of Otherplace, Gilgamesh left Olympia for New York to defend its populace. There he battled alongside Captain America (then known as the Captain), Thor, Mister Fantastic, and the Invisible Woman, and joined the new team of Avengers that the Captain was forming.

Gilgamesh was injured during the Avengers' subsequent clash with the Lava Men. Although Gilgamesh quickly recovered from his injuries, he did not return to active Avengers membership.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #299, (as member) AVENGERS #300

HAWKEYE

Hawkeye the Marksman, the man who founded the Avengers West Coast, spent his early years in very different circumstances than the life of a



world-famous hero. When Clint Barton, the future Hawkeye, was only eight years old, both his parents were killed in an automobile accident. Six years later, Clint and his brother Barney ran away from the state orphanage to which they had been sent, to find a life of color and adventure.

They ended up joining a traveling carnival, where Clint's natural talent for archery brought him to the notice of his two mentors, the future costumed criminals known as Trickshot and the Swordsman. It was the master archer Trickshot who coached Clint to become his equal with the bow.

But the Swordsman had a more sinister influence on Clint's life. When the eighteen-year-old Clint discovered that the Swordsman was embezzling the carnival's profits, the older man chased Barton onto a tightrope and then severed it with his blade. Clint fell to the ground, fracturing both his legs, while the Swordsman fled. But showing the stubbornness that would characterize him throughout his life, Clint recovered and resumed his carnival career a year later, taking the stage name of Hawkeye.

After seeing Iron Man in action, the envious Hawkeye decided to use his archery skills to become a costumed crimefighter himself. He designed a wide variety of arrows equipped with various gadgets, ranging from gas bombs to explosive tips.

But when Hawkeye himself was mistaken for a criminal, Iron Man tried to bring him to justice. Marked as an outlaw and embittered towards society, Hawkeye easily succumbed to the seductive wiles of the Black Widow, who was then a Soviet agent and used him as a pawn in battle against Iron Man.

But the Widow truly fell in love with Hawkeye, and both became increasingly disillusioned with her Communist masters. Finally, when the Widow decided to defect to the United States, she was shot by Soviet assassins. She was not killed, but this attack provided the shock that finally made Hawkeye realize he had to change the course his life had taken. He had never intended to be a criminal, much less a traitor.

Determined to return to crimefighting, Hawkeye broke into Avengers Mansion and offered to join the team. He proved so convincing about his willingness to reform that his old enemy Iron Man sponsored him for membership. Thus Hawkeye



joined Quicksilver, the Scarlet Witch, and Captain America as the second generation of the mighty Avengers.

Young, impatient and hot-tempered, Hawkeye at first continually rebelled against Captain America's leadership. Yet as time passed, Hawkeye came to respect the Captain, and today is one of Captain America's closest and most loyal friends.

Feeling outclassed by the super-powered members of the Avengers, for a time Hawkeye used Henry Pym's "Pym particles" potions to grow to gigantic size and become the second Goliath. It was in this guise that he brought the criminal Egghead to justice for murdering his brother Barney. Hawkeye retired his Goliath identity after the Kree-Skrull War, but has returned to it recently during "Operation: Galactic Storm" and other missions.

Hawkeye has been an active member of the Avengers for the greater part of the team's history, but he has temporarily left the team at various points. For example, he briefly worked with the Defenders, even finding himself on their side during the Avengers-Defenders War. Hawkeye also worked for a time as security chief for Cross Technological Enterprises until the costumed adventurer Mockingbird revealed to him how corrupt the firm was.

Hawkeye's romance with the Black Widow had ended badly, and his longstanding crush on the Scarlet Witch was always unrequited, although he remains friends with both. It was Mockingbird, however, whom he finally married after sharing an adventure with her in which the criminal Crossfire severely damaged his hearing. (As a result Hawkeye now wears a hearing aid.)

Soon after their wedding the Vision assigned the duo to found the California-based team that became known as the Avengers West Coast. Hawkeye demonstrated how he had matured over the years by proving a highly effective organizer and chairman for the new group.

But Hawkeye's greatest leadership crisis cost him his wife. He stood fast on the Avengers' ban on killing even when he learned that Mockingbird had allowed her enemy, the third Phantom Rider, to fall to his death. Furious, she quit the Avengers and put an end to their marriage.

Shortly thereafter, Hawkeye himself left the team rather than accede to the government's de-



mand that USAgent become a member. Hawkeye spent the subsequent months training the so-called "Great Lakes Avengers" before returning to the West Coast team.

A short time ago, Hawkeye and Mockingbird were reconciled. But their newfound happiness was cut short when Mockingbird was killed in combat. When the Avengers West Coast were disbanded, Hawkeye chose to go off on his own, hoping to find new purpose in life.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #16

HELLCAT

When Patsy Walker was growing up, she worked as a model and was even the star of her own comic book, drawn by her artist mother. Most importantly, though, Patsy was a loyal fan of the new super heroes who were beginning to appear.

After graduating from high school she married her high school sweetheart Robert "Buzz" Baxter, and she stayed home while he built a successful career in the Air Force. But Patsy nonetheless kept busy. A natural athlete, she kept herself in peak condition through continual training.

While Baxter was working with Roxxon Oil's "think-tank," the Brand Corporation, Patsy discovered the then-secret identity of the Beast. In return

for keeping his secret, Patsy made the Beast promise to help her become a "super-heroine."

Patsy's marriage finally ended, and she stormed into Avengers Mansion to demand that the Beast keep his promise. Tagging along on the Avengers mission to investigate the Brand Corporation, Patsy discovered a costume that once belonged to the Cat (who later became Tigra). Putting it on, Patsy leapt into action alongside the Avengers as the Hellcat.

Although she was offered membership with the team, Hellcat instead chose to undergo training by Moondragon. Later, Hellcat joined the Defenders, and eventually went into semi-retirement when she married the occult investigator Daimon Hellstrom, now known as Hellstorm. (Buzz Baxter has now become the superhuman criminal Mad-Dog.)

Hellcat became an Avengers reservist. Recently, however, Patsy went mad and was cared for by her husband.

First Avengers appearance: (as Patsy Walker) AVENGERS #141, (as Hellcat) AVENGERS #144

HERCULES

The son of Zeus, monarch of the gods of Olympus, and a mortal woman, Hercules was the great-

est and strongest of the heroes of ancient Greek and Roman mythology. Elevated to godhood and immortality by his father, Hercules is still young and alive today.

The Asgardian Enchantress tricked Hercules into drinking a potion that made him her slave and took him to Earth to destroy the Avengers. During the ensuing battle Hercules was freed from her spell, whereupon he forced the Enchantress to leave, and apologized to the Avengers. But the wrathful Zeus appeared, livid that his son had left Olympus without permission, and banished him to Earth for a year. The Avengers offered their hospitality to Hercules, who then assisted them on numerous cases. In gratitude the Avengers awarded Hercules a full membership during a public ceremony.

But Hercules did not remain with the Avengers for long. After saving the Olympian gods from exile by their foe Typhon, Hercules was welcomed back to Olympus by Zeus. The Avengers did not forget their staunch ally, however, and invaded Olympus itself to rescue him when he was captured by the Enchantress and the war god Ares.

Later Hercules chose not to return to the Avengers but to join a new team of mortal heroes, the Champions of Los Angeles. But that team soon collapsed, and Hercules eventually returned to the Avengers for an extended stay on the East Coast team.

Boisterous and fun-loving, Hercules regards the Avengers as a group of stalwart companions with whom he can share the joys of battle. But Hercules has also suffered brushes with tragedy in his times with the Avengers. Perhaps the worst of these came when he was nearly beaten to death by members of Baron Helmut Zemo's Masters of Evil. Again leaping to conclusions, Zeus blamed the Avengers for his son's fate and imprisoned them in Hades, the Olympian netherworld. But through the healing abilities of the god Apollo and the Titan Prometheus, Hercules recovered sufficiently to clear his companions' names.

Hercules was forced to convalesce for months but finally regained his full health. He aided the



Avengers at the end of the "Evolutionary War" only to undergo a strange transformation and disappearance while battling the High Evolutionary. Months later, Thor found and rescued Hercules in outer space, returned to his normal form. Subsequently, Hercules returned to active Avengers duty.

First Avengers appearance: (as ally) AVENGERS #38, (as member) AVENGERS #45

HONORARY MEMBERS AND RESERVISTS

There have been a number of individuals who were made honorary members of the Avengers to honor them after their deaths or because they participated in one or more Avengers missions. In a few cases individuals have been made reserve members of the Avengers even though they have never actively served with the Avengers for an extended period of time.

CAPTAIN MARVEL I

(Mar-Vell) Kree warrior chosen as protector of the universe by Eon. Mar-Vell possessed superhuman strength and durability and the ability to fly. He first teamed with the Avengers during the Kree-Skrull War and later allied himself with them against Thanos and Korvac. Many of the Avengers were present when Mar-Vell died of cancer. They posthumously elected him to honorary membership in tribute. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #72

DARKHAWK

(Christopher Powell) High school student turned crimefighter who can use an extraterrestrial amulet to transfer his consciousness into a superhuman body that exchanges places in "null-space" with his own. As Darkhawk he possesses enhanced strength and agility and wears artificial glider wings and a claw-cable that can be used as a grappling hook. Darkhawk was made a reserve member of the Avengers West Coast after aiding them against the Pacific Overlords. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #93

DEMOLITION-MAN

(Dennis Dunphy, a. k. a. "D-Man") Former professional wrestler whose strength was augmented to superhuman levels by the Power Broker. Dunphy later became a costumed adventurer who aided Captain America on various missions. After the Avengers had temporarily been dissolved, Captain America appointed D-Man as a member. However, to date D-Man has not formally been confirmed as an Avenger nor has he participated in any Avengers missions. First Avengers appearance: None as yet

FIREBIRD

(Bonita Juarez, a. k. a. Espirita) Adventurer and social worker based in New Mexico who gained superhuman power to induce combustion psionically, thereby generating heat. Firebird can fly by riding wind currents stirred up by heat she generates, and can discharge visible energy in the form of a bird. A f Juarez, a. k. a. Espirita) Adventurer and social worker based in New Mexico who gained superhuman power to induce combustion psionically, thereby generating heat. Firebird can fly by riding wind currents stirred up by heat she generates, and can discharge visible energy in the form of a bird. A former member of the Rangers, Firebird joined the West Coast Avengers on many missions. A devout Christian, Firebird renamed herself Espirita, stopped Henry Pym from committing suicide, and encouraged him to become an adventurer again. She has never served an active term of duty as an official Avenger, but she became a reserve member of the West Coast team. First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #4, (as reservist) AVENGERS WEST COAST ANNUAL #4

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

Team of super hero adventurers who originally banded together to combat the alien Badoon take-

over of Earth and its colony worlds in the 31st Century A.D. of an alternative timeline. After proving instrumental in overthrowing the Badoon, the team remained together to battle menaces throughout the Milky Way Galaxy. Six members — Vance Astro (later known as Major Victory), Charlie 27, Martinex, Nikki, Starhawk I, and Yondu — traveled to the Avengers' time to combat Korvac. The Avengers made all six honorary members. Recently, the Guardians saved Avengers Mansion from a takeover by the Masters of Evil. First Avengers appearance: (as allies) AVENGERS #167, (as honorary Avengers) AVENGERS #173

JOCASTA

Sentient robot in female humanoid form, created by Ultron to be his "bride," using the Wasp's personality as the template for her own. Jocasta turned against Ultron and became an ally of the Avengers, living at Avengers Mansion. Believing herself ignored by the others, she left the team. After Jocasta was wrecked in combat with Ultron, the Avengers posthumously awarded her an honorary membership. Jocasta was later reconstructed and joined the team of Avengers that Captain



America (as "the Captain") assembled to battle the High Evolutionary. In the course of that mission she was again destroyed. First appearance: AVENGERS #162

MACHINE MAN

(X-51, a. k. a. Aaron Stack, Mister Machine) Sentient humanoid robot who was created by the late Dr. Abel Stack and was endowed by him with the capacity for free will and human emotions. Machine Man possesses superhuman strength, the power to fly, and other superhuman abilities. He teamed with the Avengers against Heavy Metal and Terminus. Subsequently the Avengers West Coast elected Machine Man as a reservist, but though he aided them against the Hyena, he has yet to serve an active term of duty in the Avengers. First appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #287, (as Avenger reservist) AVENGERS WEST COAST #83

MARRINA

(Marrina Smallwood, a. k. a. Leviathan III) Member of the alien Plodex who was found and raised by human beings in Newfoundland, Canada and took on humanoid form. Marrina possessed superhu-

man strength, both lungs and gills, and various adaptations that aided her in swimming at superhuman speed. She became the second wife of Namor the Sub-Mariner and an honorary Avenger while he served on the team. Eventually Marrina transformed into Leviathan III, a gigantic, savage monster resembling a sea serpent, and was apparently slain by the Sub-Mariner using the Black Knight's Ebony Blade. First Avengers appearance: (as Marrina) AVENGERS #272, (as Leviathan III) AVENGERS #291

STINGRAY

(Dr. Walter Newell) Oceanographer who designed and wears an armored exoskeleton suit for underwater exploration. The suit enables him to project electrical blasts through air or water and to fly short distances. He and his wife Diane were custodians of Hydrobase Island, which once served as the Avengers' East Coast base. Honorary reserve member of the Avengers. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #262

TWO-GUN KID

(Matt Hawk) Lawyer of the 19th Century American West who adopted a masked identity in which he operated as a crimefighting gunfighter. The Two-Gun Kid became the ally of Hawkeye and the Avengers and has visited their time period, but eventually returned to his own. Honorary member of the Avengers. First Avengers appearance: (as ally) AVENGERS #142, (as honorary member) AVENGERS #147

WHIZZER I

(Robert L. Frank) Costumed crimefighter of the 1940s who possessed the power to move at superhuman speed. Husband of Miss America and father of Nuklo. For a time Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch mistakenly believed he was their father. Honorary member of the Avengers. Deceased. First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1, (as honorary member) AVENGERS #173

YELLOWJACKET II

(Rita DeMara) Costumed criminal who stole and modified equipment devised by Dr. Henry Pym. Yellowjacket II wears a helmet containing subatomic "Pym particles" that enable her to shrink in size and return to normal. She also wears "disruptor sting" blasters that project electrical bolts. Although she was a member of Masters of Evil IV, she later briefly became an honorary Avenger participating in a battle against the High Evolutionary. Recently she left her own time period to join the Guardians of the Galaxy. First appearance: AVENGERS #264

HULK

As a child Robert Bruce Banner was the victim of a cruel father who hated him and who eventually murdered young Bruce's mother. Bruce reacted by repressing his rage and anguish. He grew up to become America's leading nuclear physicist and designed the "gamma bomb," which released intense, deadly gamma radiation.

During the countdown for the military's test of the "G-bomb," Banner sighted Rick Jones, then a teenager, who had driven onto the testing site, unaware of the danger. Banner ordered an associate, Dr. Igor Drenkov, to halt the countdown, and raced onto the test site to save Jones. However, Drenkov was secretly a Soviet spy and let the countdown proceed. As soon as Banner got Jones into a protective trench, the bomb detonated, ir-

radiating Banner.

Due to an unknown genetic factor in his body, Banner was not killed outright, but underwent a strange mutation that caused him to transform into a superhumanly strong monster soon dubbed the Hulk by the military. Moreover, the metamorphosis also released the repressed side of Banner's personality, making the Hulk far more brutish and violent than Banner, and capable of terrible rages.

The Asgardian god of evil, Loki, used his sorcery

Sub-Mariner in attacking the Avengers. For years thereafter the Hulk was more often than not an adversary of the team.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1
HUMAN TORCH I

The first android (or artificially created humanoid), the original Human Torch was created in 1939 by Professor Phineas T. Horton, using advanced knowledge he had gleaned from working with the disguised Kang the Conqueror in the



to frame the Hulk for attempting to wreck a train, thereby hoping to lure his brother, the thunder god Thor, into battling the green-skinned monster. However, Iron Man, Ant-Man I, and the Wasp joined Thor in hunting down and battling the Hulk until they learned that Loki was the true culprit. Perhaps out of guilt, they invited the Hulk to join their new team, the Avengers. Rather reluctantly, the Hulk accepted.

However, the Hulk sensed that the others distrusted him, and his suspicions were confirmed when the alien Space Phantom used his shape-changing powers to turn the other Avengers against him. Hurt and furious, the Hulk quit the team. Soon afterwards, the Hulk teamed with the

town of Timely, Wisconsin. Like the second Human Torch who now serves in the Fantastic Four, the original could generate flame from his body without harm to himself and use it to fly through the air.

The original Torch (who adopted the human name of Jim Hammond) made a place for himself in society using his flame powers to fight criminals and subversives. He soon found a young partner, Thomas "Toro" Raymond, a teenage mutant who had the same fiery powers he did. When the United States entered World War II, both the Torch and Toro joined the Invaders, a team of superhumans dedicated to fighting the Axis powers that also included future Avengers Captain America and



Namor the Sub-Mariner.

In the later 1940s the Torch and Toro also served in the post-war predecessor of the Avengers, the All-Winners Squad. Exposure to radiation from an atomic blast eventually caused the Torch to begin losing control of his powers, and he tried to destroy himself in 1955 by burning himself out. Instead, he lay insensate in a desert for years until he was found and briefly revived by the Mad Thinker, only to be seemingly killed by his sentient computer Quasimodo. Sometime later the adult Toro died in trying to avenge the Torch's death.

For reasons of his own, the time master Immortus convinced the Vision that he was a reconstructed Human Torch. However, this was proved to be false when the Scarlet Witch used her hex power to resurrect the original Human Torch from his grave.

The Torch accepted membership in the Avengers West Coast and remained with them for months. Then he was reported to have died in saving the life of the former Invader Spitfire with a massive blood transfusion. In actuality, the Torch had merely lost his superhuman powers, and he remained a reservist with the West Coast team until it was disbanded.

First appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #71, (as member) AVENGERS WEST COAST #74

IRON MAN

Multimillionaire inventor and industrialist Anthony Stark was visiting Southeast Asia when he fell victim to a jungle booby trap and was captured by the warlord Wong Chu, who secretly served Stark's future archenemy, the Mandarin. Though Stark would soon die when shrapnel from the blast penetrated his heart, Wong Chu forced him to work in a laboratory with another captive, Professor Ho Yinsen, to design a "super-weapon" for his master. Instead, Stark and Yinsen together created an armored battlesuit that increased Stark's strength when he wore it and also contained a pacemaker that would keep Stark's heart beating. Although Yinsen was killed, Stark, in his new guise as Iron Man, defeated Wong Chu and made his way to freedom.

As far as the world at large knew, Iron Man was Stark's bodyguard. But Iron Man also made a name for himself as a formidable adversary to Communist spies and to superhuman criminals menacing society. Over the years Stark has continually redesigned his Iron Man armor, always keeping it at the cut-



ting edge of contemporary technological breakthroughs. (Eventually, Stark also received an artificial heart that enabled him to survive without his armored chestplate.)

Although Iron Man was a co-founder of the Avengers, he eventually wearied of the demands the team made on his time in addition to his solo responsibilities both as businessman Stark and as Iron Man. Hence, he left the Avengers, though with deep regrets, nominating his former opponent Hawkeye to take his place.

Although Iron Man seldom worked with the Avengers over the next few years, he returned to their ranks for their second battle with Ultron, and never was away from active duty for long over the following years.

Matters changed considerably when the intense pressures of his personal and business lives finally drove Stark into a lengthy bout with alcoholism. While Stark wandered New York City as a drunken derelict, his closest friend and aide James "Rhodey" Rhodes assumed the role of Iron Man. With time Stark regained his sobriety and he and Rhodes moved to California to establish a new high-tech firm. It was then that Rhodes became one of the first members of the West Coast Avengers, although the others were astounded on discovering he was not the original Iron Man.

Stark resumed his Iron Man identity and his role with the Avengers in time for the West Coast team's battle against the Grim Reaper's second Lethal Legion. Iron Man remained with the West Coast team consistently until he embarked on the first "Armor Wars," Stark's one-man attempt to destroy every existing battlesuit that incorporated stolen designs for his own armor. When the United States government declared Iron Man to be a criminal, the West Coast Avengers expelled him from their ranks.

Subsequently, the public came to believe that the original Iron Man had been killed and that Stark had appointed someone new to be Iron Man in his place. The Avengers West Coast were puzzled, knowing that Stark and the original Iron Man were one and the same. As the "new" Iron Man Stark reentered the West Coast Avengers, but his attempts to persuade them that the new Iron Man was somebody else proved futile from the start.

More trouble lay ahead for Iron Man when he overruled Captain America's authority on an Avengers mission to the Kree Galaxy during the Kree-Shi'ar War. Iron Man also opposed the Captain by taking the opposite side in the Avengers' dispute

over whether to destroy the Kree Supreme Intelligence. Still, after they returned to Earth, Stark made his peace with Captain America, unwilling to let their long friendship die.

Iron Man has since founded Force Works, a team of superhumans to succeed the disbanded Avengers West Coast.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1

EDWIN JARVIS AND THE AVENGERS CREW

In his youth Edwin Jarvis was a hero, serving valiantly as a pilot in the Royal Air Force of his native Britain. He must have been a formidable opponent on the ground as well, since he was the R.A.F's boxing champion for three years.

But Jarvis must have thought he was retiring from the field of adventure when he left the R.A.F and, ultimately, England as well, and became a servant for the American millionaires Howard and Maria Stark. After the elder Starks died, Jarvis remained in the service of their son, inventor Anthony Stark, as butler in charge of the Starks' luxurious mansion on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

As Iron Man, Tony Stark became a founding member of the Avengers, and in his everyday identity Stark donated his Manhattan mansion to the

new team to be their headquarters. On Stark's request, Jarvis agreed to stay on as the principal domestic servant at what was now Avengers Mansion. He has been paid ever since by the Maria Stark Foundation, which Stark set up to cover the Avengers' operational expenses.

At first Jarvis struggled to conceal his bewilderment at his new superhuman masters beneath his proper English butler's reserve. But from the very beginning Jarvis has served the Avengers loyally, and as time passed, came to care about them as individuals. Indeed, the Avengers came to regard Jarvis as a trusted confidant.

Hence it came as a shock when Jarvis seemingly betrayed the Avengers to Ultron and the second Masters of Evil. In actuality Jarvis had been deeply distressed over his inability to pay for his aged mother's hospital expenses, and too proud to ask his employers for help. Learning of Jarvis's emotional vulnerability, Ultron was more easily able to hypnotize him into aiding him in capturing the Avengers. Ultron even convinced Jarvis that the butler had done it to get money to pay the hospital bills. Once freed from Ultron's mental control, Jarvis was overwhelmed by guilt and helped the third Black Knight to find the captive Avengers. After they were freed, the Avengers welcomed Jarvis



back into their employ.

Jarvis has never wavered in his loyalty to the Avengers since then. Ironically, his greatest ordeal came at the hands of another team of Masters of Evil, the fourth, when they took over Avengers Mansion. One of the Masters, Mister Hyde, sadistically tortured Jarvis, leaving him ninety percent blind in his left eye and his right leg crippled. Although Jarvis fell into despair in his hospital bed, he summoned up the fortitude to return to his post with the Avengers, despite his newfound awareness of the dangers involved. Moreover, although he had to use an eye patch and cane for a time, Jarvis made a miraculous recovery through sheer force of will, regaining his vision and the use of his right leg.

Jarvis's only known living relative is his mother, who is now well and still lives in New York City. Lately, Jarvis has become romantically involved with a young woman named Glory Garsen.

Jarvis's responsibilities extend far beyond such normal household duties as preparing meals and keeping the Avengers' headquarters clean. He is in charge of maintaining the Avengers' quinjets and specialized equipment in good working condition and of seeing to the repair of any damage done to the headquarters building. Obviously, he cannot handle all of this work himself. Instead, he supervises the technicians and work crews that perform these various functions. Presumably, there are other members of the household staff, but Jarvis is the only one who lives in Avengers headquarters.

Jarvis is also senior member of the "Avengers crew," a permanent support staff that the Avengers have assembled in recent years. The crew also includes the following members.

John Jameson, a former astronaut and son of Daily Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson, was until recently the staff pilot for the Avengers quinjets. (John Jameson also formerly transformed into the superhuman Man-Wolf.) John recently left the Avengers Crew; his replacement as pilot is Zachary Moonhunter, whom Captain America met when Moonhunter was mentally enslaved by the criminal Druid.

In her late teens Peggy Carter worked with the French Resistance during World War II, when she met and fell in love with Captain America. She is now the Avengers' communications officer.

Michael O'Brien was once a police detective who wrongly believed that Tony Stark was responsible for the death of his brother Kevin, who helped Stark invent the Guardsman battlesuit. For a time O'Brien wore the Guardsman armor himself, though he became Stark's ally. He is now in charge of security at Avengers headquarters.

Fabian Stankowicz once also wore a high-tech battlesuit in his brief criminal career as the Mechano-Marauder. The high point of Fabian's criminal life was his attempt to sabotage the appearance of some Avengers on the David Letterman show. Fabian reformed and became the Avengers' staff inventor and technician for a time.

Avengers staff physician Dr. Keith Kincaid is the husband of Jane Foster, whom Thor once wished to marry himself.

Finally, Donna Maria Puentes, the daughter of Captain America's adversary, the Latin American prison warden known as the Swine, is now the Avengers' receptionist.

First Avengers appearance: (Jarvis) AVENGERS #16

LIVING LIGHTNING

Young Mexican-American Miguel Santos was the son of the deceased leader of the Legion of the Living Lightning, a subversive organization bent

on taking over the United States. Years after the Legion was defeated and destroyed by the Hulk, Santos was exploring the remains of their mountain lair when he connected two cables from one of the Legion's powerful "lightning machines." The surging energy mutated Santos into a superhuman being capable of transforming into electricity. In his "Living Lightning" form Santos can fly and discharge lightning bolts.

Driven mad by the shock of his transformation, the Living Lightning battled the original Human Torch before seemingly being destroyed by Doctor Pym. The criminal geneticist Doctor Demonicus restored the Living Lightning to human form and made him one of his Pacific Overlords. But during a battle between the Overlords and the Avengers West Coast, Santos switched sides and helped combat Demonicus.

Following that battle the Wasp nominated the Living Lightning to take her place as an active member of the Avengers West Coast. He recently left active membership to pursue his college education.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS WEST COAST #63, (as member) AVENGERS WEST COAST #74

MANTIS

The woman who was to be known as the Celestial Madonna began her life amid violence and death in Vietnam. Her father was Gustav Brandt, a German mercenary soldier, who married Lua, the sister of the vicious local crimelord Monsieur Khrull. Enraged that Lua had married a European, Khrull determined to kill them both. Gustav and Lua spent ten months fleeing from one Vietnamese village to another, finally stopping when Lua gave birth to Mantis. But it was then that Khrull and his men found them and turned flame-throwers onto their home. Lua was killed outright, but Gustav, though blinded by the fire, escaped with the infant Mantis and managed to reach a monastery of the Priests of Pama.

The Priests were actually members of a pacifistic sect of the militaristic alien Kree. They attempted to teach their philosophy to both Brandt and his daughter, and succeeded in showing him how to "see" by psychic means. But Brandt left the monastery, and eventually became the criminal Libra, a member of the original Zodiac.

Mantis, however, remained. The Priests realized that she had the potential to become the Celestial Madonna, the woman who would mate with a member of the Cotati, a sentient alien race of plants, and give birth to the Celestial Messiah, a being who would bring a new "golden age" of peace to the universe. Hence, they trained her to communicate telepathically with Cotati that lived at the monastery, and as a result she developed empathic powers. Under the Priests' tutelage she also became highly skilled in the martial arts. (She chose the name "Mantis" for herself during her training at the monastery; her real name has never been revealed.)

Deciding that Mantis had to spend time in the outside world, the Priests removed her memories of life at the monastery and took her to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). There Mantis encountered Monsieur Khrull, who forced her into service as a barmaid at one of his taverns. It was there that she met another of Khrull's employees, the original Swordsman. Though he had once been an Avenger, the Swordsman was now an alcoholic consumed by self-hatred and depression. But Mantis perceived that he was capable of a better life. After he was wounded on a mission for Khrull, Mantis nursed him back to health. The

Swordsman fell in love with her, agreed to reform, and traveled to America with her, where he re-joined the Avengers.

Mantis also stayed at Avengers Mansion and aided the team on their missions, including a clash with Zodiac. It was then that she learned that Libra was her father and that she had been raised by the Priests of Pama. Meanwhile, she was rapidly growing distant from the Swordsman, and even tried to seduce the Vision, although the Swordsman remained passionately in love with her.

The turning point in Mantis's life arrived when Kang the Conqueror took her captive and discovered that she was the Celestial Madonna. Kang plotted to become the father of the Celestial Messiah himself and thereby rule the universe. The Avengers and Kang's later self, Rama-Tut, thwarted his plans, and the vengeful Kang attempted to shoot Mantis dead. But the Swordsman took the lethal blast himself, and Mantis realized too late that she did indeed love him. The Swordsman was buried in the garden of the Vietnamese Priests of Pama.

Subsequently, however, the eldest Cotati on Earth reanimated and took possession of the Swordsman's body in order to mate with Mantis and father the Celestial Messiah. Mantis agreed to wed the Cotati, and the Avengers honored the occasion by unanimously electing her to be an Avenger. Once Immortus had performed the wedding ceremony, Mantis and the eldest Cotati's spirits departed for outer space. For years nothing was known on Earth of Mantis's fate.

What had happened was that the Priests of Pama had buried the bodies of the Swordsman and Mantis in their garden. After the spirits of Mantis and the Cotati had conceived their child, they returned to Earth. The Cotati reassumed its original form, while Mantis created a new simulacrum body for herself from plant matter in order to bear her child. After the child was born, Mantis raised the infant in a house in the Connecticut suburbs, calling herself Mandy Celestine.

Eventually the child began exploring his Cotati heritage in a manner that is still unexplained, and Mantis departed for outer space in astral form. Taking on a new simulacrum body of plant matter, she became the companion and ally of the alien Silver Surfer in his struggle against the Collector, Grandmaster, and other Elders of the Universe. The destruction of her plant body during this conflict caused Mantis's spirit to return to Earth, where it inhabited yet another plant simulacrum body. She traveled back to Vietnam with the West Coast Avengers, where she once again met the eldest Cotati and resurrected and regained her original human body. Speaking through the Swordsman's body, the Cotati told her that her role in raising the Celestial Messiah was over. Then the Cotati returned to its true form, causing the Swordsman's body to crumble into dust.

The West Coast Avengers departed, leaving Mantis meditating before the Swordsman's grave. What turns Mantis's life took next remain to be seen.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #112

MOCKINGBIRD

Barbara "Bobbi" Morse began her career not as a costumed adventurer but as a research biologist. She first entered government service in a project to recreate the Super-Soldier formula once used on Captain America. Learning she had been a champion gymnast in high school, the international law enforcement agency SHIELD recruited her to become one of their field agents.

Eventually, Morse quit SHIELD and adopted the



costumed identity of the Huntress to attack the widespread corruption within SHIELD's ranks. After changing her alias to Mockingbird, Morse succeeded in bringing evidence of the subversion to SHIELD Director Nick Fury, earning her decorations for meritorious service.

Morse continued to operate as a freelance costumed adventurer, employing her amazing athletic skills and her favorite weapon, her battle-stave, in combat. Eventually she crossed paths with Hawkeye during her investigation of Cross Technological Enterprises. After teaming successfully against the rogue CIA agent Crossfire, Mockingbird proposed to Hawkeye and they got married immediately.

On returning to the Avengers with his new bride, Hawkeye was assigned by the Vision to found a new West Coast Avengers team in California. Mockingbird happily became Hawkeye's very first recruit.

Mockingbird's marriage and partnership with Hawkeye were blissful until they became separated during the West Coast Avengers' journey back to past centuries in the course of their conflict with Dominus. Trapped in the 19th Century American West, Mockingbird was drugged by the third Phantom Rider, a mad costumed gunslinger who thereby forced her to become his lover. Once Mockingbird regained her free will she turned

against her seducer, and finally allowed him to fall from a cliff to his death. Knowing of the Avengers' rule against killing, Mockingbird did not tell her husband what she had done after he and the West Coast Avengers rescued her.

But Mockingbird could not shake off her feelings of guilt, and worse, even back in the 20th Century she was haunted by the vengeful ghost of the third Phantom Rider. Finally, she admitted what she had done to the outraged Hawkeye. Infuriated, Mockingbird quit the Avengers along with Tigra and Moon Knight, who sided with her, and the trio formed their own short-lived team.

Shortly after her own team broke up, Mockingbird was duped by an alliance of many nations' intelligence agencies into helping them abduct the Vision in order to disassemble him. Mockingbird returned to the West Coast Avengers and aided them in rescuing the Vision. She left again to become the new trainer for the so-called "Great Lakes Avengers" but was subsequently given reserve status with the West Coast team.

Recently, Mockingbird returned to the Avengers West Coast as a full-time member and was reconciled with Hawkeye just before they would have finally gotten divorced. However, soon afterwards she was slain by Mephisto in the aftermath of the

Avengers West Coast's battle with Lethal Legion IV.

First Avenger appearance: (as ally) AVENGERS #239, (as Avenger) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 1 #1

MOON KNIGHT

Revulsed by the murderous brutality of his employer, Raoul Bushman, mercenary Marc Spector challenged him to a fight in the Sudan. Bushman won and left Spector in the desert to die. Worshipers of the ancient gods of Egypt carried Spector to safety, but he collapsed and seemingly died. But then he revived, gazing upon a statue of Khonshu, the ancient Egyptian god of the moon. Spector's moral and physical rebirth inspired him to become the costumed crusader known as the Moon Knight, Khonshu's Earthly agent of vengeance.

Moon Knight traveled back in time to ancient Egypt to help rescue a group of West Coast Avengers who had become stranded in the past. Intrigued by the Avengers, Khonshu mentally induced Moon Knight to seek to become an Avenger himself, and slowly took possession of Spector's mind. Thus Khonshu, through the medium of Moon Knight, could experience what it meant to be one of the West Coast Avengers.

When the West Coast Avengers discovered that Mockingbird had allowed the third Phantom Rider to die when she was temporarily marooned in the 19th Century West, she left the team. Agreeing with her contention that killing could be morally justified, Moon Knight (under Khonshu's mental domination) and Tigra joined her to form a new, short-lived team.

Ultimately, Khonshu ended his possession of Moon Knight and restored his free will. Since Moon Knight never wanted to be an Avenger, he soon resigned from the team, although he has continued his solo crimefighting career.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #211, (as member) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #33

MOONDRAGON

Three-year-old Heather Douglas was traveling to Los Angeles with her parents in the family car when they were attacked by the mad Titanian Eternal Thanos. Her parents were killed outright, although her father Arthur Douglas was later resurrected by Mentor, leader of the Titanian Eternals, as the superhuman Drax the Destroyer. As for Heather, Mentor transported her to Titan, where she was raised and trained by the Titanian monks of Shao-Lom. Under their guidance she mastered her vast latent psionic powers and became a formidably skilled martial artist. The monks intended her to be a candidate for the role of the Celestial Madonna, the woman destined to bear a child who would change the destiny of the cosmos.

But Heather proved to be an imperfect choice. She turned egotistical and arrogant after driving off the malevolent cosmic entity known as the Dragon of the Moon, and took the name Moondragon in commemoration of her victory. But she had not truly won, for the Dragon secretly exerted its corrupting influence over her mind.

When Thanos attacked Titan, Moondragon fled to Earth, where she aided the Avengers and Captain Marvel in defeating him. A short time later she encountered the Avengers again, only to learn that Mantis had been chosen to be the Celestial Madonna, not her. However, Moondragon then became a provisional member of the Avengers on Iron Man's suggestion, and remained on active duty for many months before turning reservist.

The other Avengers were undoubtedly relieved that she did not choose full active membership,

since her arrogance and contempt for those she considered less godlike than herself had grated on her teammates' nerves. A compulsive troublemaker, she convinced Thor to leave the Avengers and later castigated him and the other Avengers for opposing the insane would-be god Korvac. Later, as a show of power, she psionically forced numerous superhumans to apply for Avengers membership.

Finally Moondragon mentally enslaved the alien population of the planet Ba-Banis and Thor as well, manipulating her fellow Avengers into serving her tyrannical ends, and even killing her father Drax (although he was again resurrected later). Outraged, Thor turned the self-styled goddess over to Odin, monarch of the Norse gods, for punishment.

Over the following months Moondragon reformed under the watchful eyes of the Defenders, but she fell victim to lethal spores, and surrendered herself to the Dragon of the Moon to save her life. Now thoroughly under his influence, Moondragon attacked the Defenders only to be incinerated in combat with them.

But this was not the end of Moondragon. She managed to project her consciousness first into her cousin, Pamela Douglas, and then into a new body cloned from her original one. Free at last of the Drágon's control, Moondragon rejoined the Avengers as a reservist. However, she has since become a full-time member of the Infinity Watch.

First Avengers appearance: (as ally) AVENGERS #134, (as provisional member) AVENGERS #137, (as full member) AVENGERS #172

MISTER FANTASTIC, INVISIBLE WOMAN, and THING

Mister Fantastic (Reed Richards), the Invisible Woman (Susan Storm Richards), and the Thing (Ben Grimm) are three of the founding members of the Fantastic Four, the first contemporary team of superhuman adventurers. One of the most brilliant scientific geniuses of this century, Mister Fantastic can also stretch his body to incredible lengths. His wife, the Invisible Woman, can turn invisible and create invisible force fields. Their best friend, the Thing, is a man who mutated into a grotesque, superhumanly strong monster.

The Fantastic Four have been allies of the Avengers from the beginning of the latter team. Perhaps surprisingly, these three Fantastic Four members have also served brief stints as active members of the Avengers.

Following a major falling out with two of his fellow members, the enraged Thing quit the Fantastic Four and made his way to the West Coast. While in the Los Angeles area, the Thing stopped by the compound of the newly formed West Coast Avengers. Grimm aided the new team on various missions, and briefly became a member before returning to the Fantastic Four.

Sometime later, the Richardses took a leave of absence from the Fantastic Four to raise their son Franklin in peace. However, when demons from the dimension called Other place staged the "Inferno" invasion of Manhattan, Captain America, then known simply as "the Captain," sought out Reed and Susan Richards for help. When he arrived, Franklin had just been abducted by the armored criminals Nanny and the Orphan-Maker. Together with Gilgamesh, the Captain and the Richardses rescued Franklin and battled the demons and the Growing Man. The Richardses then accepted the Captain's invitation to join the new team of Avengers he was forming.

But the Richardses' active membership did not last long. Mister Fantastic irritated Captain



America by carrying out a plan against Super-Nova without clearing it with him first. Soon afterwards, the Richardses left the Avengers by mutual agreement and returned to the Fantastic Four.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-members) AVENGERS #1, (Thing as member) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #9, (Mister Fantastic and Invisible Woman as members) AVENGERS #300

MS. MARVEL I (A. K. A. BINARY)

Following an extraordinary career as a secret intelligence agent for the United States, Carol Danvers became security chief at Cape Canaveral at an unusually young age. It was there that she met and fell in love with the alien Kree hero Captain Mar-Vell. Exposure to the energies of the Kree psymagnetron device endowed her with superhuman powers similar to Mar-Vell's, including superhuman strength and the power of flight.

Moving to New York City, Danvers became the masked adventurer known as the original Ms. Marvel. She aided the Avengers against the menace of Korvac, and was officially admitted to the team when the Scarlet Witch went on a leave of absence.

Months later Ms. Marvel fell victim to the mad schemes of a mysterious being named Marcus, who

claimed to be the son of the time lord Immortus. Magnus used his advanced technology to manipulate Danvers' mind, causing her to fall in love with him, and thereupon impregnated her. After an incredibly accelerated pregnancy, Ms. Marvel gave birth to Marcus himself, reincarnated in a new form that almost instantly achieved adulthood. Still under his brainwashing, Danvers returned to limbo with him, where he apparently perished.

Her will once again her own, Danvers returned to Earth, but soon found herself in battle against the mutant Rogue, who was at that time a criminal belonging to Mystique's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Losing control of her ability to absorb the memories and powers of others, Rogue absorbed Danvers' superhuman abilities and memories permanently.

With the aid of Professor Charles Xavier of the X-Men, Danvers managed to reconstruct her memories. Embittered against the Avengers for not helping her against Marcus, Danvers chose to stay with the X-Men, and accompanied them into outer space. She was abducted along with them by the alien Brood and was subjected to a genetic experiment that endowed her with new cosmic powers. Renaming herself Binary, she decided to remain in space as a member of the X-Men's allies,

the Starjammers.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #171, (as member) AVENGERS #183

NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER

The son of a water-breathing Atlantean princess Fen and an American sea captain, Prince Namor of Atlantis is an amphibious mutant, capable of living both above and below the waves, possessed of enormous superhuman strength, and endowed with tiny ankle wings that somehow enable him to fly. Although born in 1920, as a long-lived Atlantean he still remains a young man today.

At first Namor was the enemy of America, conducting a one-man reign of terror in New York City in 1939 in vengeance for surface people's attacks on his Atlantean people. But he soon learned that the real menace was the Axis powers, and joined forces with future Avengers Captain America and Human Torch I in the Invaders to battle them.

After spending years as an amnesiac derelict in New York, Namor regained his memory but fell victim to bouts of insanity during which he again waged war against the surface world. It was thus as an enemy that the Avengers first encountered the Sub-Mariner. They pursued him into the Arctic, where Namor found the figure of Captain America, frozen in suspended animation, and, not recognizing him, cast him into the sea, where he was found by the Avengers and revived. Shortly afterwards, the Captain joined the Avengers in combat against the team of the Sub-Mariner and the Hulk.

Nevertheless, the Avengers came to respect Namor, and invited him to join their team during their first major reorganization. The Sub-Mariner graciously declined, but only months later met the Avengers once again in battle. He also found himself on the opposite side from the Avengers in their war with the Defenders.

Years later, after Namor had abdicated the throne of Atlantis, his old ally Captain America told him how Namor had been responsible for his revival from suspended animation, and in gratitude the Captain invited him to join the Avengers' East Coast team. Touched, Namor accepted this time, although his membership proved intensely controversial for those who would not forgive his past wars against the United States. (Eventually, the issue was settled in a United States court, which declared Namor to have been temporarily insane in the past and appointed Captain America to supervise his future behavior.)

Namor left the Avengers briefly in order to rescue his alien lover Marrina from his longtime foe Attuma, who had taken over Atlantis. He then established a new undersea kingdom, Deluvia, with Marrina as his bride and queen. Months later, though, the Deluvians scattered and the new kingdom came to an end when the Olympian god Neptune attacked and abducted Namor on orders from Zeus. After the Avengers made peace with Zeus, Namor returned to the team and lived with Marrina on Hydrobase Island. Their happiness was short-lived, for Marrina metamorphosed into a monstrous creature called the Leviathan, which Namor was forced to slay with the Black Knight's ebony blade. In anguish the Sub-Mariner left the team once more.

First Avengers appearance: (as antagonist) AVENGERS #3, (as member) AVENGERS #262

QUASAR

SHIELD agent Wendell Elvis Vaughn acquired a pair of alien quantum bands that enabled him to tap and manipulate the immense energies of the extradimensional "quantum zone." Under the



name Marvel Man Vaughn served in the original Super-Agents of SHIELD and later, as Quasar, acted as head of security for the energy research institute Project: Pegasus. Eventually Quasar learned that he had been chosen by the ancient cosmic entity Eon to serve as "protector of the universe."

Quasar joined the Avengers after aiding them against the alien warrior Supernova and worked with the East Coast team.

Following the Kree-Shi'ar War, though, Quasar realized that he had to spend more time away from Earth in order to fulfill his role as protector of the universe better. Therefore, he obtained a leave of absence from regular active duty with the Avengers.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #302, (as member) AVENGERS #305

QUICKSILVER

Although for years neither of them knew it, Pietro Maximoff, alias Quicksilver, is the son of the world's most dangerous mutant criminal Magneto. Fearing her husband, his wife Magda fled to Wundagore Mountain in Transia in Eastern Europe, then the base of the master genetic engineer known as the High Evolutionary. There she gave birth to Pietro and his twin sister Wanda, and then departed, afraid Magneto would find them. The

High Evolutionary gave the two mutant infants to the gypsy Django Maximoff to raise.

In his adolescence Pietro discovered he had the mutant power to move at blinding superhuman speeds. Years later, in a fateful coincidence, Pietro and Wanda were rescued from a violent mob of villagers by Magneto. Unaware that Magneto was their father, but feeling they owed him their lives, Pietro and Wanda subsequently agreed to join his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, in which they assumed the costumed identities of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. As Brotherhood members they reluctantly aided Magneto in his attacks on human civilization and his clashes with the X-Men. Embittered by the prejudice shown him in Eastern Europe, Quicksilver shared much of Magneto's contempt for normal humanity. Finally, wearying of the continual battles, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch left the Brotherhood and returned to Eastern Europe.

Reading that the Avengers were seeking new members, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch returned to America and joined the new team. Impatient and easily angered, Quicksilver frequently rebelled against Avengers chairman Captain America's authority at first, but he slowly came to respect him and became an effective team player.



Eventually the Scarlet Witch's powers temporarily waned and Quicksilver accompanied her for a time to Transia. After returning to the Avengers the twins were confronted by Magneto, who insisted they rejoin him. Still rankled by the widespread hatred of mutants, Quicksilver willingly rejoined the Brotherhood and turned against the Avengers. Following Magneto's subsequent disappearance, Quicksilver and the Witch joined their ally the Toad in aimless wandering.

After the Scarlet Witch was abducted by Arkon, Quicksilver returned to the Avengers to seek their aid. Close to his sister to the point of being over-protective, Quicksilver finally had a falling out with Wanda when she became romantically involved with the android Vision over his bigoted objections.

Still, Quicksilver remained with the Avengers until he was almost fatally injured during the team's battle against the robotic Sentinels. He was found and nursed back to health by Crystal of the Inhumans and they were soon married. Although Quicksilver resigned from the Avengers to live with his new bride, he still worked with them on occasion. It was during one such instance that Moondragon manipulated his psyche to end his opposition to the Witch's marriage to the Vision.

During another visit to Earth Magneto revealed to Quicksilver that he was his father.

The birth of Quicksilver and Crystal's daughter Luna was not enough to prevent strains increasing in their marriage. Finally, when Quicksilver learned that Crystal had an affair, he went berserk with rage. The mad Inhuman Maximus further twisted Quicksilver's psyche, causing him to vow vengeance not only on Crystal but on the Avengers as well.

First, Quicksilver framed the Avengers for serious crimes, leading to their imprisonment by federal authorities. Then, after the Avengers broke free, he hired the android Zodiac to recapture them. The Avengers overcame Zodiac and cleared their names, but Quicksilver subsequently conspired with various Communist agents to capture the West Coast Avengers when the team traveled to Eastern Europe.

Eventually, Quicksilver broke free of Maximus's mental influence and was forcibly reunited with Crystal by the Inhumans' monarch Black Bolt. Quicksilver finally redeemed himself in the Avengers' eyes when he sided with them against Magneto after the latter had brainwashed the Scarlet Witch. For a time, Quicksilver worked with the West Coast team, but he then accepted his invita-

tion to join the federal government's new X-Factor team.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #16

RAGE

After being exposed to radioactive wastes, Harlem teenager Elvin Daryl Holiday developed vast superhuman strength and durability, as well as a massive physique resembling an adult's. Holiday became a masked crimefighter of the New York streets known as Rage. He soon went to the site where the Avengers' new New York headquarters was being constructed and demanded to be inducted, pointing out that the team had no currently active African-American members.

At first Captain America and other Avengers were put off by Rage's arrogance, but he proved his worth to them when he accompanied them on a journey into another dimension. Shortly afterwards, the Avengers inducted Rage into the East Coast team as a probationary reserve member.

However, the Avengers were forced to expel him upon learning that he was actually still a minor, and hence ineligible for membership. Since then, Rage has joined the New Warriors, a team of adolescent super heroes.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #326, (as member) AVENGERS #329

SANDMAN

Escaped convict William Baker (alias Flint Marko) was hiding out at a beach near a nuclear testing site when an experimental reactor exploded, showering him with radiation. Baker discovered that his body had mutated so that it could take on the form and properties of sand. As the Sandman he used his new superhuman powers to commit spectacular crimes and became one of the original members of the Wizard's criminal team, the Frightful Four.

Tiring of years of continual defeats by Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, and others, the Sandman gave up his life of crime and tried to live quietly in Queens, New York, under the alias Sylvester Mann. Convinced he had truly reformed, the Avengers arranged for Baker to receive a presidential pardon and inducted him as a probationary reserve member.

Shortly thereafter, however, the Sandman learned of an attempt to hijack nuclear waste materials and called in the Avengers to stop the criminals involved. Captain America later attempted to explain to the Sandman that their new charter did not give them authority over such crimes. Jumping to conclusions, the Sandman wrongly assumed that Captain America was about to fire him, and quit the Avengers in a fit of anger.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #329

SCARLET WITCH

For most of her life Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, was inseparable from her twin brother Pietro, alias Quicksilver. Raised in the Eastern European land of Transia by the gypsy Django Maximoff, neither sibling knew that they were actually the children of the mutant Magneto. As an adolescent Wanda discovered her mutant ability to alter the laws of probability, thereby causing unlikely events to take place. But in those days she had no control over this "hex" power.

After becoming separated from their foster parents, Wanda and Pietro wandered central Europe, until one day Wanda accidentally set a house aflame with her "hex" power. Both would have been killed by an enraged mob had they not been rescued by Magneto, who had no idea they

were his children.

Owing their lives to Magneto who was their father, Pietro and Wanda felt obliged to join his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, and took on their costumed identities of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. But she finally abandoned the Brotherhood and its war against normal humanity and returned to Eastern Europe.

Shortly thereafter, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch joined the Avengers. They served loyally for many months until Quicksilver rejoined Magneto, forcing his devoted sister to come along with him. After Magneto was subsequently defeated by the Avengers and X-Men, Pietro and Wanda returned to a life of wandering, accompanied by a former Brotherhood member, the Toad. But when the other-dimensional warrior monarch Arkon abducted Wanda, Quicksilver sought the Avengers' aid in rescuing her. Once Wanda was safely returned, both siblings rejoined the Avengers.

It was then that Wanda met and fell in love with the Avengers' new android member, the Vision. The hot-tempered Quicksilver was infuriated by their growing romance, and the two siblings were never quite as close after that. (Years later, Moon-dragon would telepathically alter Quicksilver's mind so that he would no longer object to Wanda and the Vision's relationship.)

Another major change in Wanda's life came when she began studying actual sorcery under the tutelage of the witch Agatha Harkness.

Eventually the Vision and Scarlet Witch were married in a ceremony at which Immortus officiated; the couple left active duty with the Avengers and settled in Leonia, New Jersey, while remaining Avengers reservists. She also finally learned that Magneto, who at that time was renouncing his terrorist past, was her real father.

Since the Vision was an android, it seemed impossible for him and Wanda to have children. However, during a battle with the witches of Agatha Harkness's community of New Salem, the Scarlet Witch absorbed tremendous mystical energies, which she used to conceive two children, Thomas and William, born nine months later. Unknown to Wanda, though, their sons were not real but were merely magical constructs, unconsciously formed by her from mystical portions of the demon lord Mephisto.

Eventually the Scarlet Witch and the Vision resumed active Avengers membership, this time in the Avengers' new West Coast division. But now a series of disasters befell the Witch. First, the Vision was captured and disassembled by agents of the world's major intelligence agencies, who also erased his memories. Although the Vision was reconstructed, his mind was no longer based on Wonder Man's human brain patterns, and hence he no longer loved the Scarlet Witch.

Even worse, soon afterwards Wanda learned the truth about her two sons, who ceased to exist. Unsurprisingly, the Scarlet Witch went temporarily insane, and became the pawn of her father Magneto, who was swiftly returning to his criminal ways. Although Wanda finally regained her sanity and returned to the Avengers West Coast, her family and personal life lay in ruins. Even Quicksilver, with whom she had reconciled, left the Avengers and joined X-Factor.

Somewhat reluctantly, the Scarlet Witch became the final chairman of the Avengers West Coast. Although she had never held a leadership position before, she proved surprisingly capable in her new role. Hence, when that group disbanded, she joined Iron Man, Spider-Woman II, and the USAgent in forming the new team Force Works.



First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #16



SERSI

In one of the earliest and greatest works in Western literature, Homer's *Odyssey*, the heroic warrior Odysseus, also known as Ulysses, encountered a sorceress named Circe. Appalled by his crew's table manners at the feast she gave them, Circe transformed them into pigs. But Ulysses induced her to turn them back to human beings, and he and his crew remained on Circe's island as her guests for many months, partying.

Circe was not truly a sorceress, but was actually Sersi, one of the most powerful of the Eternals, the superhuman offshoot of humanity created by the enigmatic Celestials. Like other Eternals, Sersi has virtual immortality, superhuman strength, the power to fly, the ability to project energy blasts, and limited telepathic abilities, and is almost entirely indestructible. Sersi surpasses all other Eternals, however, in her psionic ability to rearrange molecular structures, enabling her to transform objects as she wishes, or even to turn human beings into pigs.

In recent years Sersi became a fixture in Manhattan society, known for her frequent and spectacular parties. Although she proved a staunch ally of Ikaris, Zuras, Thena, and other Eternals when they

required her aid against their foes, the Deviants, at other times Sersi chose to lead a life of leisure.

Hence, it was surprising when she chose to join the Avengers, taking the place of her fellow Eternal Gilgamesh, who had been seriously injured in combat. Perhaps in part she was following up on her recent flirtations with Captain America, who did not return her sentiments. Soon, however, she turned her attention to the Black Knight, who found himself torn between his attraction to her and his deeper feelings for another new Avenger, Crystal.

Yet it may be that these were merely the first signs of Sersi's growing mental instability. Since most of the Eternal race had departed for outer space years before, the remaining Eternals on Earth could no longer join in as mighty a Uni-Mind, the physical incarnation of a group consciousness as they could before. The Uni-Mind was necessary to relieve and refresh the Eternals' minds of anxieties, stress and fear. Then, after joining the Avengers, Sersi formed a Uni-Mind with the alien Brethren who had invaded and devastated much of Earth. Sersi may have saved the planet by her actions, but at the cost of breaking down her own psychological stability.

As a result Sersi has fallen victim to a form of madness known as the Mahd W'yry. Indeed, unknown to her fellow Avengers, Sersi has apparently slain three people while she was undergoing episodes of temporary insanity. To attempt to give her a means of stability, the Eternals' leader Ikaris bonded her mentally with an unwilling Black Knight, thereby making him her soulmate, or "gann josin" in the Eternals' language.

But as yet there is no sign that Sersi's slide into madness has halted. Worse, the Avengers' new adversary, Proctor, claims that he was Sersi's original "gann josin" and that Sersi has destroyed numerous alternate Earths. Now Proctor and his Gatherers seek to kill Sersi before she destroys "mainstream" Earth of the so-called "core reality." Perhaps Proctor is referring to the Sersis of alternate Earths when he claims she destroyed them. In any event it remains to be seen in the future how the situations of Sersi, the Black Knight, and Proctor resolve themselves.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #247, (as member) AVENGERS #314

SHE-HULK

A successful lawyer working in Los Angeles, Jennifer Walters was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt by a henchman of gangster Nick Trask. To save her life her cousin Bruce Banner, the scientist who turned into the Hulk, gave her a transfusion of his own blood. Banner's mutated blood reacted with an unknown factor in Walters' body chemistry, causing her to transform under stress into a superhumanly powerful green-skinned woman who became known as the She-Hulk.

At first legal authorities regarded the She-Hulk as a menace, but she eventually proved her worth to them as a crimefighter. Unlike her cousin at that time, Walters retained her normal intelligence as the She-Hulk, and though she became more uninhibited in that identity, she did not fall prey to Hulk-like rages. Indeed, Walters enjoyed life more as the She-Hulk and eventually chose to remain in that form. (In any event, exposure to radiation later rendered her unable to transform back to her original appearance.)

The She-Hulk moved to New York City and joined the Avengers during the Wasp's chairmanship. After becoming friends with the Thing during the first "Secret War," he persuaded her to take

his place in the Fantastic Four while he went on a leave of absence. She stayed on in the Fantastic Four after the Thing resigned, but remained an Avengers reservist throughout this period, and returned to active duty with the East Coast Avengers once he finally returned to the F.F.

The She-Hulk finally left the Avengers when the East Coast team collapsed following Doctor Druid's betrayal. But she returned to active duty once Captain America reorganized the Avengers. She has since become a reservist.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #221

SPIDER-MAN

Bitten by a spider that had been mutated by atomic radiation, high school student Peter Parker developed superhuman strength and agility along with a "spider sense" that alerted him to danger. At first Parker sought to use his new powers to make a fortune as the mysterious masked Spider-Man. But after his uncle Ben was murdered by a burglar, Parker instead vowed to use his special abilities to fight crime and protect the innocent.

Although for most of his career Spider-Man has operated as a loner, he nevertheless wanted to join the Avengers. It was during his college years the Avengers first invited him to join the team and as a test, assigned him to locate the Hulk. But on discovering that the Hulk was actually a man cursed to turn into a rampaging monster, Spider-Man felt sorry for him and let him go. Spider-Man then returned to the Avengers and declined their offer of membership.

Years later, Spider-Man, by now an adult, aided the Avengers against Lava Men and superhuman criminals who were wreaking havoc at the federal energy research institute Project: Pegasus. Still later, Captain America invited Spider-Man to join the Avengers after the web-spinner had saved the universe from destruction by Nebula.

Some months later, Spider-Man became a reserve member of the East Coast team. Nevertheless, Spider-Man's connection with the Avengers appears to be minimal so far, and he has not participated in any major missions with the team to date.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #11, (as member) AVENGERS #329

SPIDER-WOMAN II

After volunteering to undergo experiments by government scientists, Colorado native Julia Carpenter was injected with organic extracts from spiders. Somehow this caused her to mutate, endowing her with the superhuman abilities that she uses as the second Spider-Woman. (Julia has no connection with Jessica Drew, the original Spider-Woman.) Like Spider-Man, Spider-Woman II possesses superhuman strength; unlike him she can create a web of pure psionic energy. It is this web-like energy that also enables her to cling to and climb walls.

Spider-Woman II first encountered the Avengers when she found herself transported to the "Battleworld" created by the Beyonder for the first Secret War and joined them and other super heroes in opposing the superhuman criminals he had also brought there. After returning to Earth she joined Freedom Force, the federal government's team of superhuman operatives. But she was alienated by her new teammates, most of whom were unrepentant criminals.

When Quicksilver framed the Avengers as criminals, it was Freedom Force that brought them in to the authorities. Admiring the Avengers, Spider-Woman was distressed at seeing them deprived of their legal rights and summarily imprisoned in the

Vault, the federal prison for superhumans. She enabled the Wasp to escape and free the others, and then fled herself, knowing the government would now consider her an outlaw.

Eventually, Spider-Woman made peace with the federal government, returning to their service as a solo operative. After relocating to Southern California, she joined forces with the Avengers West Coast in opposing Doctor Demonicus and his Pacific Overlords. When Tigra went on a leave of absence from the team at the end of that adventure, she nominated Spider-Woman II to take her place.

With the disbanding of the Avengers West Coast, Spider-Woman II joined the new team Force Works.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS ANNUAL #15, (as member) AVENGERS WEST COAST #74

STARFOX

Starfox was born as Eros, son of Mentor, leader of the Eternals of Titan, one of the moons of Saturn. (Eros is not to be confused with his namesake, the Olympian god of love, who is better known as Cupid.) Mentor was the brother of Zuras, the late leader of the Eternals of Earth, a superhuman offshoot of the human race to which the Avengers Sersi and Gilgamesh also belong. Mentor left Earth and settled on Titan thousands of years ago, and though he and the other Titanian Eternals are as long-lived as their Earth counterparts, their other superhuman powers are different.

Eros's brother, Mentor's other son, is the death-worshipper Thanos, who has repeatedly sought to destroy life throughout the cosmos. Eros, on the other hand, devotes himself to the pursuit of pleasure. Besides his superhuman strength and ability to fly, Eros also possesses the psionic ability to stimulate the pleasure centers of the minds of others, a talent he can use to make an adversary's aggressiveness disappear.

Seeking new adventures, Eros came to Earth to join the Avengers. It was at this point that he adopted his new name Starfox. He quickly rose from being a member-in-training to achieving full membership with the East Coast Avengers. However, after the Avengers' initial encounter with the space pirate Nebula, who claimed to be Thanos's granddaughter, Starfox left the team to join the cosmic adventurer Firelord in searching for this alleged relative of his.

Starfox has yet to return to active duty with the Avengers, although he occasionally assists them.

First Avengers appearance: (as non-member) AVENGERS #230, (as member) AVENGERS #232

SWORDSMAN I

A Frenchman who was once a masked freedom fighter in the Asian country of Sin-Cong, Jacques Duquesne used his mastery of bladed weapons to become a carnival performer in the United States, billed as the Swordsman. There he became the mentor to the young archer Clint Barton, who would grow up to become the Avenger Hawkeye. When Barton discovered that his mentor was a criminal, the Swordsman attempted to kill him.

Following a lengthy series of crimes throughout Western Europe, the Swordsman returned to America, where his protégé Hawkeye had just joined the Avengers. Hoping to use the team as a front for committing crimes in the States the Swordsman attempted to force the Avengers to accept him as a member. When they refused, he tried to kill Captain America. But just as the Captain and the other Avengers were about to capture him, the Swords-



man was teleported into the lair of Iron Man's arch foe, the Mandarin. The Asian mastermind selected the Swordsman to be his double agent in the

Avengers who would assassinate Iron Man for him. To that end, the Mandarin presented the Swordsman with a sword that could fire concussive force beams, flame, electrical blasts, sleeping gas, and disintegration rays.

After the Mandarin teleported him back to New York, the Swordsman once again asked the Avengers to accept him as a member. This time they agreed, in order to play along and see what he was planning. After a fierce battle the Swordsman escaped and returned to his criminal career, wishing that he could have reformed and remained one of the Avengers.

Those regrets quickly vanished, and the Swordsman plagued the Avengers for years, often in partnership with the original Power Man. He served the Mandarin in a plot for world conquest, allied himself with Egghead and the brainwashed Black Widow, and joined the Grim Reaper's original Lethal Legion.

Yet eventually this former freedom fighter's longing to be a true hero resurfaced again, and he briefly teamed with the Avengers in their invasion of Olympus to rescue the captive Hercules. He could not yet summon the strength of will to reform, and his once spectacular criminal career declined until he ended up as an alcoholic hit man for Vietnamese crimelord Monsieur Khrull.

It was in Vietnam that he met Mantis, with whom he fell in love. After she nursed him back to health from a near-fatal wound, the Swordsman decided to follow her advice and make a new start to his life. They traveled to New York where he asked to be readmitted to the Avengers, vowing he had reformed. Wary of him at first, the Avengers granted him provisional membership, but events soon proved his sincerity and they made him a full member.

Sadly, the Swordsman's career as a hero ended almost as soon as it had begun. In attempting to save Mantis from being slain by Kang the Conqueror, the Swordsman was struck dead by the time lord's lethal energy bolt instead.

Strangely, though, this was not the end of the Swordsman's story. Mantis proved to be the "Celestial Madonna," a human woman destined to become the mother of a child who would change the course of the universe's history. The eldest of

the Cotati on Earth, a race of sentient alien plants, resurrected the Swordsman's body to serve as his host in order to wed Mantis. Once the Cotati had taken on pure energy form to mate with Mantis, the Swordsman's corpse returned to its grave.

First Avengers appearance: (as antagonist) AVENGERS #19, (as member) AVENGERS #20

THOR

The thunder god Thor is the member most responsible for the creation of the mighty Avengers, inasmuch as it was a scheme against him by his foster brother Loki that first brought the Avengers' founding members together.

Thor is one of the most powerful gods of the other-dimensional realm of Asgard, the race of superhuman beings who were worshipped centuries ago by the Norsemen and Germans. He was born untold ages ago as the son of Odin, monarch of the Asgardians and Gaea, the patron goddess of the Earth. Possessing vast superhuman strength, the noble Thor was presented by his father with the enchanted uru hammer Mjolnir, which enables him to fly and to control the weather, among its many magical powers.

In the mid-Twentieth Century Odin decided to teach his headstrong son humility by transforming

him into the crippled human medical student Donald Blake. As Blake Thor became a noted surgeon and came to value humanity more than he ever had before. Eventually Odin enabled Blake to find Mjolnir, with which he could transform back to his godly self.

Thor was a founding member of the Avengers, and as Dr. Donald Blake served for many years as the team's physician, even though most of the Avengers remain unaware of his dual identity. (In recent years Thor has given up his Blake persona.)

It was while Thor was taking part in Odin's "Trial of the Gods" in Asgard that the other founding members first left the team, and the thunder god was astonished to discover that a new team had been formed when he finally returned to Earth. Perhaps because the other founders were gone, Thor had little to do with the Avengers over the next few years, although he joined them in opposing the Mandarin and Collector.

Beginning with the Avengers' second battle against Ultron, Thor began working with the team on a more regular basis. At one point the arrogant Moondragon convinced Thor that he was holding himself back from using his full might by working alongside these human beings. Nevertheless, his feelings of camaraderie with his brave Avenger



allies soon brought him back to the team, and until lately Thor was never gone from the ranks of the East Coast Avengers for long.

Recently, though, after Thor apparently slew the evil Loki in combat, the god Heimdall, then ruling in Odin’s stead, temporarily entrapped Thor within the subconscious mind of his human friend Eric Masterson, and endowed Masterson with the powers of the thunder god. Masterson, as the new Thor, took the thunder god’s place in the East Coast Avengers for many months.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1

THUNDERSTRIKE a. k. a. THOR II

When New York City architect Eric Masterson was mortally wounded by the savage Mongoose, the thunder god Thor begged his father, Odin, monarch of Asgard, to help him save the mortal’s life. Odin granted Thor’s request by merging Masterson and Thor into a single being with separate personalities. Later, when Thor had seemingly slain Loki, the Asgardian god Heimdall, then ruling in Odin’s absence, imprisoned Thor’s persona within Masterson’s subconscious mind. Now Masterson could transform into a godly form in which he possessed all the powers of Thor.

Masterson confided what had happened to Captain America, leader of the East Coast Avengers, and the Captain agreed to allow Masterson to take Thor’s place on the team. However, matters were not as simple as that might at first seem. Masterson was unused to acting as a “super hero” and Captain America had to treat him sternly at times. The new Thor felt out of place among the more experienced Avengers until he participated with them in the Kree-Shi’ar War. It was then that he fully realized that Captain America and the others were human beings like himself, capable of error and prey to self-doubt.

Eventually, the original Thor and Masterson separated once more into two separate beings. However, as a token of esteem for his friend, Thor presented Masterson with an enchanted uru mace called Thunderstrike. Masterson could use the mace to take on a superhumanly strong form. Moreover, the mace possessed many, though not all, of the same magical abilities as Thor’s hammer; for example, Masterson could use it to hurl himself through the air or even outer space.

Masterson called himself “Thunderstrike” after his mace. Since Thor had decided to remain in Asgard, Masterson decided to use his powers as Thunderstrike to carry on Thor’s old role as protector of humanity on Earth.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #343

TIGRA

Chicago-born Greer Grant Nelson was a laboratory assistant to Dr. Joanne Rumulo, who was actually a member of the Cat People, a sentient race of catlike humanoids mystically created from real cats. Nelson underwent experimental treatments by Rumulo that endowed her with enhanced physical abilities, which she used to become the costumed crimefighter known as the Cat. (The Cat’s costume was later adopted by the Avenger Hellcat.)

During one of the Cat’s missions, she was shot with lethal radiation by an agent of the subversive organization HYDRA. To save her life Rumulo and the Cat People mystically transformed Nelson into a new version of the Cat People’s legendary warrior Tigra, a striped catlike humanoid with superhuman strength and agility and superhumanly acute senses. Using a cat’s-head amulet, Nelson

could transform from her normal human form to her Tigra form and back. She continued her crime-fighting career as Tigra, and came to like her new form so much that she rarely reverted back to her original human appearance.

Tigra was among the various superhumans whom Moondragon mentally compelled at one point to attempt to join the Avengers. The team actually admitted Tigra to membership, but she was not comfortable belonging, believing she did not measure up to Avengers standards, and resigned after a number of months. Nonetheless, when Hawkeye invited her to join his new West Coast team, Tigra accepted.

During this period Tigra underwent various psychological difficulties due to the strain of reconciling her human and catlike natures. On the West Coast Avengers’ second journey to the realm of the Cat People, Tigra’s human and feline “souls” were integrated. As a result, she can no longer switch back to her human form. But for a time subsequently, Tigra became increasingly feral, leaving behind her human personality.

However, the human side of Tigra’s personality has resurfaced and she has finally achieved mental and emotional stability. She then took a leave of absence from the Avengers West Coast.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #211

U. S. AGENT

Born in Georgia, John Walker enlisted in the army as a young man in the hope of following in the footsteps of his older brother Mike, who had died heroically during the Vietnam War. John, however, found himself a soldier ready for action in a time of peace. Dissatisfied, he left the army seeking some new means to fulfill his ambition.

His first step was to undergo the Power Broker’s dangerous treatment for bestowing superhuman strength. Having survived, Walker assumed the costumed identity of the Super-Patriot and held patriotic rallies throughout the United States to voice his conservative vision of what America should stand for. The Super-Patriot demanded that the country recognize him as their national hero, claiming that Captain America, who had first appeared in 1941, could no longer represent contemporary Americans.

However, the Super-Patriot was not the perfect citizen he pretended to be. Walker arranged for his own associates, the “Buckies,” to attack him publicly, while claiming to be supporters of Captain America, in an attempt to smear the Captain’s good name.

Meanwhile, the federal Commission for Superhuman Activities demanded that Captain America work directly for them, inasmuch as the government had created his costumed identity. Unwilling to surrender his freedom of action, Steve Rogers gave up his Captain America identity, costume, and shield. Commission member Dr. Valerie Cooper suggested recruiting the Super-Patriot as the new Captain America. Commission chairman Douglas Rockwell, who was secretly an agent of the Captain’s greatest foe, the Red Skull, approved her idea; knowing of the dark side of Walker’s personality, the Skull planned to use him to ruin the image of the ideals Captain America represented.

After undergoing intensive training, Walker and a former “Bucky,” Lemar Hoskins, went into service as the new Captain America and his partner, Battle Star. Bitter that the government had not accepted them as well, the two other “Buckies,” now calling themselves Left-Winger and Right-Winger, publicly revealed the new Captain America’s true identity.

As a direct result, the Watchdogs, a right-wing vigilante organization who had clashed with the new Captain America, murdered John Walker’s parents in revenge. Walker went temporarily insane with anger and grief, and not only killed many of the Watchdogs, but also captured Left-Winger and Right-Winger and left them to die in an explosion.

Eventually both Walker and Rogers, now known simply as the Captain, found and confronted the Red Skull, who revealed how he had manipulated both their lives. Subsequently, the Commission, horrified at learning Rockwell’s true loyalties and repulsed by Walker’s excesses, asked Rogers to reassume the role of Captain America. When Walker, too, asked him to do so, Rogers accepted.

But at the press conference at which the Commission announced the return of the original Captain America, Walker was apparently assassinated by one of the Watchdogs. In fact, the murder was a hoax staged by Commission member General Haywerth in order to deceive the world into believing Walker was dead. The Commission then created a new cover identity for Walker, that of Jack Daniels, and a new costumed identity as well, the USAgent. As the Agent Daniels appropriately wears a darker variation of Captain America’s costume and carries a shield made of vibranium, which can absorb the impact of concussive force directed against it.

The Commission then compelled the West Coast Avengers, who then operated under United States government auspices, to accept the USAgent as a member. The team did not welcome their ruthless new member, and Hawkeye temporarily quit the Avengers in protest. Although the Agent and the Avengers have never grown to like each other, they have accepted each other as time has passed. Daniels has also mellowed considerably, and deeply regrets the deaths of Left-Winger and Right-Winger. Hence, even after the Avengers reorganized itself under United Nations auspices, the U. S. Agent continued to serve as a member. Following the demise of the Avengers West Coast, he became one of the founding members of Force Works.

First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS #44

VISION

The Vision is a unique form of android known as a synthezoid, who is composed of both mechanical parts and an unknown material that mimics the properties and functions of human tissue and bone but is far stronger and more durable. He absorbs solar energy through a jewel on his brow and can project it back as a beam of intense heat. His principal superhuman power is his ability to alter his density, so as to become diamond hard or virtually intangible and hence capable of flight. He also possesses remarkable superhuman strength.

The Vision was created by the Avengers’ robotic archenemy Ultron utilizing spare parts constructed by Professor Phineas T. Horton, creator of the original Human Torch. (For reasons that remain mysterious, the time lord Immortus once persuaded the Vision that he was the same being as the Torch. This thesis was recently disproved when the original Torch was resurrected and actually met the Vision.) Ultron programmed the Vision’s mind with a computer program based on encephalograms (“brain patterns”) from the brain of Wonder Man, who was then believed to be dead. As a result, in later years the Vision and Wonder Man came to regard themselves as “brothers” of a sort.

Dominating the Vision’s mind through a “con-

trol crystal," Ultron sent him to attack the Avengers. When the Wasp first saw the synthezoid, she described him as "an unearthly, inhuman vision," and the name stuck. (Coincidentally, the Vision bears a certain resemblance to a 1940s costumed hero also known as the Vision.) But the Vision broke free of Ultron's control and joined forces with the Avengers against him. The grateful team inducted him as a member, and the Vision has remained with the Avengers almost continually ever since.

The Vision's human emotions slowly developed over time, and he eventually fell in love with and married the Scarlet Witch, a turn of events that evoked the unreasoning hatred of bigots who would not accept the Vision's claim to be human. The Vision and Witch resigned from active duty and settled in Leonia, New Jersey, while remaining Avengers reservists.

Summoned to aid the Avengers against Annihilus, the Vision severely malfunctioned due to exposure to a "null-field." To help repair him, the Avenger Starfox telemetrically linked the Vision to ISAAC, the massive computer complex of his homeworld, Titan. The Vision's control crystal enabled the alien computer to alter his way of thinking.

Soon the Vision became the Avengers' new chairman and sent Hawkeye and Mockingbird to California to establish a new West Coast team. But the Vision had more dangerous plans in mind as well. He had concluded that the way to bring a new "golden age" to humanity was for him to take absolute control of the planet through linking himself to all of the world's computers. Thankfully, the Avengers discovered his plan and persuaded him to abandon it. He himself destroyed the control crystal, thereby breaking his link with ISAAC and reverting to his previous modes of thought. Resigning from the Avengers in shame for what he had done, the Vision returned to Leonia with the Witch. After the Scarlet Witch had absorbed great mystical energies, she bore the Vision two sons, who, however, later proved to be mystical phantasms.

The world's governments believed that they could not take the chance that the Vision might attempt once again to take over the planet. Hence, they abducted and disassembled him, erasing his programming. The Avengers West Coast rescued him and he was reconstructed with a somewhat different appearance by Doctor Pym and the Black Panther. But Wonder Man refused to allow them to use his brain patterns to reconstruct the Vision's human personality, and so the Vision now seemed more cold and emotionless than he ever had. Although he still regarded the Scarlet Witch as an ally, he no longer loved her and their marriage was effectively ended.

The Vision has returned to active duty with the Avengers, working first with the West Coast team and now with the East Coast group. His current programming is based on the brain patterns of Alexander Lipton, the late son of computer scientist Miles Lipton, and the Vision has adopted the occasional "secret identity" of Victor Shade.

Recently the Gatherers captured the Vision, and their leader, Proctor, transplanted the Vision's mind into the red-skinned body of a Vision from an alternate Earth. In turn, the mind of that alternate Vision was transplanted into the Vision's yellow-skinned body. The Gatherers' Vision then infiltrated the Avengers, but his imposture was discovered and he was ultimately destroyed. The captive Vision regained his freedom and rejoined the Avengers in his new android body.

First Avengers appearance: (as antagonist)



AVENGERS #57, (as member) AVENGERS #58

WAR MACHINE

James "Rhodey" Rhodes was a lieutenant in the United States Marines stationed in Southeast Asia when he first met Iron Man, shortly after the latter had first created his battlesuit and had defeated the tyrant Wong Chu. Rhodes accompanied Iron Man through the jungle until they reached an American base. In his true identity of Anthony Stark, Iron Man offered Rhodes a job as his personal pilot after completing his military service. Years later, Rhodes finally took Stark up on his offer.

Rhodes became Stark's best friend and confidant, and was finally trusted even with the secret of Stark's dual identity. When Stark succumbed to alcoholism for the second time, Rhodes took over the Iron Man identity with Stark's permission. Eventually, Rhodes, the recovering Stark, and two associates moved out to Silicon Valley, California to start a new electronics design company. During this time Rhodes, as Iron Man, became one of the first members of the Avengers' new West Coast branch.

Soon afterwards, Stark reassumed his role of Iron Man and took over Rhodes' place in the West

Coast Avengers. When Stark found it necessary to fake his own death in order to save his own life, he left Rhodes in charge of Stark Enterprises. On



learning that Stark was still alive, Rhodes angrily quit his employ. However, Stark allowed Rhodes to take the new "War Machine" Iron Man battlesuit with him. This armored suit has basically the same capabilities as Stark's own, including superhuman strength, flight, and the ability to discharge "repulsor rays." As War Machine, Rhodes rejoined the Avengers West Coast and remained with them until the group was recently disbanded.

First Avengers appearance: (as Iron Man II) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 1 #1, (as War Machine) AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #94

WASP

Janet "Jan" Van Dyne was still in her late teens when her father, the wealthy scientist Vernon Van Dyne, was killed by an alien Kosmosian. When Dr. Henry Pym, as the original Ant-Man investigated Van Dyne's death, she told him that she would do anything to avenge her father's murder. Struck by her resemblance to his late first wife Maria, Pym revealed his dual identity to her and offered to endow her with superhuman powers and make her his crimefighting partner. Van Dyne agreed and Pym allowed her to utilize subatomic "Pym particles" that would cause her to shrink to insect size and return to her normal size. He also implanted cells in her body that would cause her to sprout wings and antennae when she attained insect size that would enable her to fly and to communicate telepathically with the higher insects. (Over subsequent years her powers changed so that she could generate "Pym particles" from her own body and could retain her wings even at the height of 4'4". Pym also modified her powers so that she developed superhuman strength as she grew smaller and could discharge bioelectrical "stings.")

As the Wasp, Van Dyne aided Ant-Man in defeating the monstrous Kosmosian. They remained crimefighting partners and fell in love with each other as well.

It was the Wasp who came up with the name "Avengers," and she was the sole female founding member of the team.

Seeing crimefighting as a great adventure, the Wasp deferred to the more serious Pym as the leader of their partnership. But he was always ambivalent about his life as a costumed champion, and finally decided to retire both from the Avengers and crimefighting, giving as his excuse that he feared for the Wasp's safety. Van Dyne acceded to her overprotective partner's wishes and retired as well.

But some months later, Pym and Van Dyne discovered that the Sub-Mariner was heading toward New York. When Van Dyne went to alert the Avengers as the Wasp, she was captured first by the undersea warlord Attuma and then by the alien Collector. Pym took on the new costumed identity of the original Goliath to help the Avengers rescue her, and the pair rejoined the team.

Months later, having reached the age specified in her father's will, Van Dyne inherited a vast fortune. Nonetheless, Van Dyne eventually embarked on a highly successful career as a fashion designer. In fact, it is due to her designing talent that the Wasp is the Avenger who has worn the most and greatest variety of costumes over the years.

None of the Avengers, not even the Wasp, knew the depth of the emotionally repressed Pym's psychological problems. On exposure to an experimental gas, he underwent a radical personality change and became the original Yellowjacket, who demanded to marry the Wasp. Realizing who Yellowjacket really was, the Wasp went through



with the wedding. But although Pym almost immediately reverted to his normal personality, the Wasp wrongly assumed that he was cured of any serious emotional problems.

Years later Pym suffered from severe depression and self-hatred and collapsed into a nervous breakdown. Believing himself to be a failure, he envied and resented his wife's wealth and success as a designer. They quarreled frequently and bitterly, and finally he struck her during an argument. Feeling disillusioned and betrayed, Janet divorced her husband, and thereafter was briefly romantically involved first with her fellow Avenger Tony Stark (Iron Man) and later with the soldier of fortune Paladin. She and Pym were finally reconciled and remain close friends to this day, although they do not intend to remarry.

Although the Wasp's flirtatious and fun-loving manner has led some to consider her to be rather flighty, in actuality she has proved to be perhaps the most effective chairman the East Coast Avengers have ever had except for Captain America. She has served two terms as leader, and saw the Avengers through perhaps their darkest hour, the capture of Avengers Mansion by Baron Zemo II's Masters of Evil.

Finally wearying of the strain of leadership, the Wasp took an extended leave of absence although she served for a time with the Avengers West Coast.

First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1

WONDER MAN

Heir to his late father's munitions and electronics firm, Simon Williams was unable to compete successfully with Stark Industries and took his criminal brother Eric's advice to embezzle funds from the firm.

Convicted for his crime, Simon would have been sent to prison if not for Baron Heinrich Zemo and the Enchantress, who paid his bail and cast a spell over the authorities to make them let Williams go free.

Zemo persuaded Williams to take his vengeance on Anthony Stark by helping him strike at Stark's bodyguard, Iron Man (who was secretly Stark himself) and his allies the Avengers. Zemo subjected Williams to ionic radiation bombardment, which set off a series of mutations that first endowed him with superhuman strength rivaling that of Thor. To make certain that Williams did not betray him, Zemo told him the mutagenic treatment would kill him within a week unless Zemo supplied him reg-

ularly with an antidote.

In his new costumed guise as Wonder Man, Williams helped the Avengers win a battle staged by Zemo and his Masters of Evil. Gratefully, the Avengers welcomed him into their team, and when he told them he was dying, struggled selflessly to discover a means of curing him. Soon afterwards, Wonder Man led the Avengers into an ambush by Zemo and the Masters of Evil.

But once the Avengers had been captured, Wonder Man suffered an attack of conscience. Unwilling to see the friends who had tried so desperately to help him perish, he helped free them and joined them in defeating Zemo and his allies.

Almost immediately Wonder Man collapsed and lost all signs of life. Dr. Henry Pym made a record of his "brain patterns," which were later used by Ultron in the original programming of the Vision. Seeking to avenge Wonder Man's death, his brother Eric became the costumed criminal known as the Grim Reaper who sought for years to destroy the Avengers. He even recovered Wonder Man's body, which had not physically deteriorated at all.

In actuality, Wonder Man was not dead at all but was undergoing a further physical metamorphosis. The end result was to transform him into a virtually indestructible being whose body consists of a pattern of magnetically charged ionic particles. He no longer needed food, water, or air to survive and is apparently immortal.

Years after his brother's seeming "demise," the Grim Reaper employed the voodoo master known as the Black Talon to resurrect Wonder Man, albeit as a mindless being resembling a zombie. The Reaper sent Wonder Man to the Avengers to taunt them, but soon afterwards Wonder Man fully revived, shaking off the Talon's spell. The Avengers welcomed him back into their ranks, first as a provisional member and later as a full Avenger. (Unable to accept the transformed Simon as his brother, the Grim Reaper is now Wonder Man's archenemy.)

But Simon Williams has always felt ambivalence about his role as an Avenger. In part this was due to his criminal past, but to a much greater extent it was because of the traumatic effect of "dying" and spending years in a comatose state. Ever since Williams has suffered from an obsessive fear of death, a major handicap in the dangerous job of being an Avenger, and although he has managed to overcome this terror, even today he must constantly work at surmounting it.

Williams has also long been fascinated with the idea of making a name for himself not as an industrialist or super hero, but as an actor. When government liaison Henry Peter Gyrich imposed restrictions on the number of active Avengers, Williams left the team to pursue his acting career. But he found limited success and soon was working with the Avengers once more.

Eventually, Wonder Man quit the team and moved out to California, where he began to make a name for himself as an indestructible stuntman. This success gave him the confidence to rejoin the Avengers when Hawkeye founded the West Coast team. Wonder Man served active duty in the West Coast Avengers for years while establishing himself as an actor in action-adventure movies.

Recently, Wonder Man discovered that he can alter his physical form at will, and even grow to gigantic size within certain limits. He also now knows that he can fly by force of will, rather than relying on the jet pack he formerly used for aerial travel.

First appearance: AVENGERS #9



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ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES

ABOMINATION

(Emil Blonsky) Former spy mutated by gamma radiation into grotesque, superhumanly strong monster. Body was briefly mentally possessed by Tyrannus. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #25

ABSORBING MAN

(Carl "Crusher" Creel) Professional criminal endowed (along with his ball and chain) with the supernatural ability to duplicate at will the physical or magical properties of anything he touches or that touches him.

Member of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #182

ANACHRONAUTS

Team of warriors from various time periods who serve Kang the Conqueror. Also known as Kang's Centurions. Includes Apocryphus, Deathhunt 9000, Raa, Sir Raston, Sith, and Tyndar, and Wil-drun. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #21

ANNIHILUS

Sentient insectoid being who rules various worlds in the Negative Zone. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #89

ANT-MAN II

(Scott Edward Harris Lang) Electronics technician who now uses the Ant-Man costume and paraphernalia designed by Dr. Henry Pym to operate as an adventurer. Uses "reducing gas" to shrink in size and "enlarging gas" to return to normal size. First Avengers appearance: (as Lang) AVENGERS #181, (as Ant-Man II) AVENGERS #195

ARES

(a. k. a. Mars) Olympian god of war, son of Zeus, rival and foe of Hercules. Has attempted to conquer Olympus in the past. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #38

ARIES I

(Marcus Lassiter) One of the original twelve leaders of Zodiac I. Led small army that captured Manhattan Island for Zodiac and attempted to hold it for ransom, only to be thwarted by the Avengers and Daredevil. Died in an explosion. First appearance: AVENGERS #72

ARKON

Imperion (ruler) of the other-dimensional world of Polemachus. Formidable warrior with superhuman strength. Wields energy weapons shaped like lightning bolts. Has proved willing to destroy the Earth to ensure the survival of his own world. First appearance: AVENGERS #75

ARSENAL I

Robot constructed by Allied scientists in 1944 as a doomsday machine to be activated if the Axis powers won World War II. Capable of independent thought and linked to a computer code-named Mistress. Activated in recent years and battled the Avengers. Apparently destroyed. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #9

ASSASSIN II

(Maria, last name unrevealed) Female costumed



assassin for hire who disguised herself as a man in her costumed identity. Attempted unsuccessfully to kill the Avengers. Deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #145

ATTUMA

Barbarian chieftain of the undersea realm of Skarka; later took control of Atlantis. Has repeatedly attempted to conquer the surface world. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #26

AWESOME ANDROID

Artificial life form with superhuman strength and the ability to mimic certain physical attributes of other beings. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #286

BALOR

Gigantic, superhumanly strong member of the extradimensional Fomor. Possesses a third eye, from which he can project mystical force. Apparently destroyed. First appearance: AVENGERS #225

BARON ZEMO I AND II AND THE MASTERS OF EVIL

Baron Heinrich Zemo was one of the greatest scientific geniuses serving Adolf Hitler's Third

Reich. He was a pioneer in the creation of laser weaponry and devised "Adhesive X," which was so strong that there was then no known means of removing it.

Widely sought for capture by Allied agents and feared by his own German people, Zemo took to concealing his identity beneath a red hood. He was thus disguised when Captain America broke into one of his secret laboratories and hurled his shield at a vat containing the sole existing supply of Adhesive X. The adhesive spilled over Zemo, permanently affixing the hood to his head.

His awful fate drove Zemo insane with rage, which he even took out against his wife and young son Helmut. Zemo became a notorious war criminal, directing sabotage and terror against the Allies during World War II. Finally, he took his vengeance on Captain America by luring him and his young partner Bucky into a trap in England in the final days of the war in Europe. He had them tied to an experimental drone plane which he intended to launch towards Germany, knowing they would not survive the flight. The two heroes got free, but, knowing it was booby-trapped, Zemo launched the plane anyway. Bucky leapt aboard, attempting to stop it, only to perish when the plane exploded. The detonation hurled Captain America to his ap-

parent death in the icy waters off the British coast, and Zemo, satisfied, fled to South America to avoid Allied capture.

There Zemo remained for decades ruling his hidden jungle lair, until he learned that Captain America had not died but gone into suspended animation, and had just revived, young as ever. The now elderly Nazi vowed to destroy his hated foe and recruited a team of costumed criminals to help him attack both Captain America and his new allies, the Avengers.

The initial members of Zemo’s “Masters of Evil” were the criminal Black Knight II, the Melter, and the Radioactive Man; subsequently he also recruited the Asgardian exiles known as the Enchantress and Executioner. Zemo even endowed a rival of Tony Stark, Simon Williams, with superhuman powers and sent this new “Wonder Man” to infiltrate the Avengers.

But each of Zemo’s assaults on the Avengers failed, and even Wonder Man turned against him.

Finally, Zemo had the Masters launch an all-out attack on the Avengers in New York City, while he himself held Captain America’s young friend Rick Jones hostage at his South American base. Captain America flew to Jones’s rescue, and in the ensuing battle, the Captain temporarily blinded the Baron with reflected sunlight from his shield. Firing his laser gun wildly, Zemo triggered a landslide that killed him. With the death of Bucky thus finally avenged, Captain America buried the Baron’s corpse. Back in New York City, the original Masters of Evil came to their end with their final defeat by the Avengers.

Two of the original Masters, the Melter and the Radioactive Man, enlisted in the second Masters of Evil, who were gathered together by the evil robot Ultron. Other recruits included Klaw, the Whirlwind, and Black Knight III, but the new Black Knight had only joined the Masters in order to betray them from within.

The third team of Masters of Evil was organized by Egghead, the criminal scientist who had succeeded in framing his longtime nemesis Dr. Henry Pym for serious crimes. The Radioactive Man and Whirlwind were again members of the new Masters, as were the Beetle, Moonstone II, the Scorpion, Shocker I, and Tiger Shark. Egghead sent members of the Masters to kidnap Pym from the courtroom where he was on trial so that Egghead could force him to work for him. But Pym turned the tables, creating a device that enabled him to defeat Egghead and most of the remaining Masters single-handedly.

In the years since Heinrich Zemo’s death, his son Helmut had assumed the title of Baron and his father’s quest for revenge on Captain America. In his first clash with the Captain, Helmut (then known as the Phoenix) fell into a vat of acid, disfiguring his face so horribly that he was forced to wear a hood similar to his father’s.

In his most grandiose scheme of vengeance, Baron Helmut Zemo organized the largest Masters of Evil of them all, an army of superhuman criminals comprising the Absorbing Man, Blackout I, Bulldozer, Fixer II, Goliath III, the Grey Gargoyle, Mister Hyde, Moonstone II, Piledriver II, Screaming Mimi, Thunderball, Tiger Shark, Titania II, the Whirlwind, Wrecker III, and Yellowjacket II. Together they captured Avengers Mansion, Captain America, and the Black Knight, severely injured Edwin Jarvis and beat Hercules nearly to death. Under the leadership of the Wasp, the Avengers invaded the Mansion, rescued the captives, and soundly defeated the Masters. Zemo’s sole lasting success was the destruction of the original Avengers

Mansion.

Recently, Doctor Octopus organized yet another Masters of Evil, including the Absorbing Man, Gargantua, Jackhammer, Oddball, Powderkeg, Puff Adder, Shocker I, Titania II, and Yellowjacket II. It appears unlikely that this fifth version of the Masters of Evil will return, but inevitable that eventually a sixth incarnation of the team will arise to menace the Avengers yet again.

First Avengers appearance: (Baron Zemo I, in shadow) AVENGERS #4, (Baron Zemo I, fully shown; Masters of Evil I) AVENGERS #6, (Masters of Evil II) AVENGERS #54, (Masters of Evil III) AVENGERS #222, (Baron Zemo II and Masters of Evil IV) AVENGERS #272

BEASTS OF BERLIN

Gorillas who were endowed with human intelligence and the ability to talk by scientists serving East German Communists. Adversaries of Giant-Man I (Henry Pym). First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #33

BEETLE

(Abner Jenkins) Master mechanic turned costumed criminal who wears an armor-plated battlesuit that amplifies his strength and that has wings enabling him to fly. Former operative of the Collector and member of Masters of Evil III. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #27

BERSERKER

(Real name unrevealed) Caveman who was mutated by radiation into a superhuman being who no longer aged. Became a mercenary in ancient civilizations. Was transported to other planets to fight as a mercenary and received advanced weapons for his services. Became active again in recent times but was trapped by the Avengers in the other-dimensional Shadow Realm. First appearance: AVENGERS #207

BEYONDER

Vast but unknown form of energy intended by the other-dimensional Beyonders to serve as a basis for a Cosmic Cube. Instead, the energy developed sentience and mistakenly believed itself to be an omnipotent being. The Beyonder took human form on Earth to continue his investigations of humanity. The Beyonder proved to be a menace and was opposed by Earth’s heroes. Eventually, the Beyonder transformed into a true Cosmic Cube. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #259

BLACK KNIGHT I

(Sir Percy of Scandia) Greatest champion of the Round Table of King Arthur Pendragon, ancestor of Black Knight III. Has often appeared as a ghost to advise Black Knight III. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #71

BLACK KNIGHT II

(Nathan Garrett) Scientist and spy turned costumed criminal, garbed in medieval-style armor. Wielded lance containing advanced weaponry and rode mutated winged horse. Member of Masters of Evil I. Uncle of Black Knight III. Now deceased. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #6

BLACKOUT I

(Marcus Daniels) Criminal who could tap and manipulate the Darkforce to create concussive energy beams or solid objects with simple geometrical forms. Member of Masters of Evil IV. Deceased. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #237

BLACK TALON II

(Samuel David Barone) Voodoo master, skilled in raising zombies. Member of Lethal Legion III. First appearance: AVENGERS #152

BLANK

(Real name unrevealed) Criminal who utilizes equipment that creates a protective force field quite close to his body that gives him the appearance of a “blank” featureless figure. Former ally of Graviton. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 1 #2

BLASTAAR

Deposed tyrannical monarch of the planet Baluur in the Negative Zone. Possesses superhuman strength and durability and the power to generate explosive bursts of force from his fingertips. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #309

BLOOD BROTHERS

(Real names unrevealed) Two alien warriors who are symbiotically linked. When together, the Blood Brothers possess great superhuman strength and durability. Former servants of Thanos. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #252

BLOODHAWK I

(Real name unrevealed) Bird-like man who was artificially mutated while he was still in the womb by his scientist father. Possessed wings enabling him to fly, feathers, a beak, and clawed hands. Suffered from periodic bouts of insanity. Killed by Stinger II. First appearance: AVENGERS #179

BLOOD WRAITH

(Sean Dolan) Boy who became the squire to Black Knight III but was morally corrupted by the blood curse of the Knight’s Ebony Blade. Now wields the Ebony Blade and wears an enchanted suit of armor. Enemy of Black Knight III. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #22

BOGATYRI

(English translation: “Valiant Champions of Elder Days”) Team of superhuman Russians who are loyal to the former Soviet Union and seek to wage war against the United States. Led by Dr. Vladimir Volkh. Other members include Mikula Golubev, Svyatogor, and Zvezda Dennista (Morning Star). First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #87

BOVA

Semi-humanoid cow with human-level intelligence who was evolved from a normal cow by the High Evolutionary. Served as midwife for the births of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. First appearance: GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1

BRAIN-CHILD

(Arnold Sutton) Mutant boy who is native to the “Other-Earth” of the Squadron Supreme. Possesses an enormous brain and skull, unusually high intelligence, and psionic powers. Adversary of the Squadron Supreme. First appearance: AVENGERS #86

BRES

Member of the extradimensional Fomor who possesses magical powers, second sight, and superhuman strength. Adversary of the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS #225

BRETHREN

Warlike alien humanoid race that was created by the Celestials through genetic engineering per-

formed on bacteria. Possessed both individual minds and a group consciousness. For thousands of years the Brethren plundered other planets, killing and enslaving their people. Imprisoned by the Collector five thousand years ago. Upon their recent escape, the Brethren attacked Earth. Most were then reduced to blob like creatures by the Collector. They finally formed a Uni-Mind and left Earth, apparently having forsaken their destructive ways. First appearance: AVENGERS #334

BRUTUS

Mutate who posed as a Deviant and led the other Deviants in a war to conquer all of Subterranea. Exposed as a Mutate and slain. First appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #20

BUTTE

Sentient creature created from inanimate rock by the alien computer Dominus. Possesses super-human strength and the form of a female humanoid. Dominus also created numerous duplicates of Butte. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #17

CACTUS

Sentient creature created from a large cactus plant by the alien computer Dominus. Dominus also created numerous duplicates of Cactus. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #17

CAPTAIN ATLAS

(Att-Laß) Kree warrior mutagenically altered by the Psyche-Magnetron to give him greater strength and durability and the power of flight. Partner of Doctor Minerva. Member of the Kree Starforce. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #81

CAT PEOPLE

Race of sentient humanoid cats originally created by the human sorcerer Ebok, who later became demonic beings. Now inhabit an other-dimensional netherworld and are under the domination of Belasco. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #6

CHAMPION I

(Imus Champion) Criminal billionaire who is nine feet tall and possesses strength proportionate to his great size. Wears a costume that generates a null-energy field that deflects objects and concussive force. First appearance: AVENGERS #109

CHTHON

(a. k. a. The Other I) Primeval Elder God turned demon who possesses vast mystical powers but fled Earth into a nether dimension. Created the parchment inscribed with evil mystical lore that became known to humanity as the Darkhold. Has sought in modern times to become active on Earth. His Earthly essence is now imprisoned within Wundagore Mountain. First Avengers appearance: (in human host) AVENGERS #185, ("true" appearance) AVENGERS #187

CIRCUS OF CRIME

Traveling band of circus performers, usually led by Ringmaster II, who use their special skills to rob their audiences. Regular members include the Clown, the Great Gambonno, the Human Cannonball, and Princess Python. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #22

COLLECTOR

(Taneleer Tivan) Member of the Elders of the Uni-



verse who obsessively collects living beings and artifacts from throughout the universe. Possesses immortality and limited precognitive powers. First appearance: AVENGERS #28

COMBINE

Former members of the Peace Corpse, a team of Soviet terrorists (acting against the will of the Soviet government) who sought to trigger World War III. Two of them, Illyich Prokvitch and Stokov, were mutated by nuclear radiation into a composite superhuman being (the Combine) with a group mind who could absorb and discharge radiation. The other members of the Peace Corpse were transformed into components of the Combine. First appearance: (as Peace Corpse) AVENGERS #319, (as Combine) AVENGERS #323

COMMISSAR

Android with superhuman strength used by the Communist government of Sin-Cong. Wrecked by the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS #18

COTATI

Race of sentient plants with great psionic abilities that originated on Pama, the native planet of the Kree. Transplanted on numerous inhabited worlds

by the Kree Priests of Pama, including Earth. The eldest of Earth's Cotati took possession of the body of Swordsman I to mate with Mantis and father the "Celestial Messiah." First appearance: AVENGERS #133

COUNT NEFARIA

(Count Luchino Nefaria, a. k. a. The Dream-Maker, Dream-Master) Italian nobleman who was the dominant figure of a powerful Maggia "family." Employed advanced technology, including a "nightmare machine" that could influence dreams and force-field technology. Finally underwent process that gave him vast superhuman strength, superhuman speed, and the power to project laser-like beams, but that accelerated his aging, leaving him ancient and enfeebled. Leader of Lethal Legion II. Now deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #13

DEATHBIRD

(Real name unrevealed) Firstborn of the current ruling family of the Shi'ar Empire. For undisclosed reasons Deathbird was deprived of her right to inherit the throne, and she was exiled for crimes against the state. Recently assassinated the Kree's leaders. Possesses functional wings growing from her arms as an atavistic throwback to the Shi'ar's avian-like evolutionary forebears. Now leads Star-

force. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #189

DEATHWEB

Team of superhumanly powerful terrorists with abilities resembling those of spiders. Members include Antro, Arachne, and Therak. First appearance: (unnamed) AVENGERS WEST COAST #82, (named) AVENGERS WEST COAST #84

DEFILER

(Real name unrevealed) Other-dimensional humanoid who derives energy from transporting young people into his dimension. Possesses superhuman strength and durability. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS #38

DIABLO II

(Esteban Corazon del Diablo) Alchemist born in Spain in the 9th Century A.D. who discovered the secret of eternal life and seeks world conquest in the present. First appearance: AVENGERS #41

DIRE WRAITHS

Ruthless, imperialistic non-humanoid aliens originally from "Wraithworld" in the Dark Nebula. Dire Wraiths slay victims and then use their shape-shifting abilities to adopt their physical appearance. Female Wraiths and some male Wraiths also possess magical powers. Thwarted in their attempts to invade Earth by Rom and Earth's costumed champions. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #244

DOCTOR DEMONICUS

(Douglas Birely) Geneticist who developed advanced genetic engineering techniques, which he has used to endow human beings with superhuman powers and to create enormous monsters. Leader and founder of the Pacific Overlords. Raised his own island in the Pacific Ocean, which he named Demonica and proclaimed to be an independent nation. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #70

DOCTOR DOOM

(Victor von Doom) Monarch of the Balkan pocket kingdom of Latveria who possesses extraordinary scientific genius and has long sought world domination. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #25

DOCTOR DOOM II

(Kristoff, last name unrevealed) Young Latverian boy who was taken under the protection of Doctor Doom. During a period when Doom was presumed to be dead, his robots programmed Kristoff's mind with Doom's memories. As a result, Kristoff believed himself to be the original Doctor Doom. Now deceased. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #35

DOCTOR MINERVA

(Minn-Erva) Kree scientist possessing superhuman strength and the ability to fly by psionically manipulating gravitons. Member of Starforce. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #81

DOCTOR SPECTRUM II

(Dr. Kinji Obatu and others) Name used by anyone who forms a psychic bond with the "power prism," which is actually a criminal Skrull named Krimonn who was forced into crystalline form. The resulting symbiosis allows Doctor Spectrum to produce energy beams and alter reality by willing the prism to do so. Krimonn's consciousness tends to overpower that of the human wearer of the Doctor Spectrum costume. Member of the Squadron

Sinister. First appearance: AVENGERS #69

DOMINUS I

Massive, highly advanced sentient computer complex created by the extraterrestrial race known both as the Quists and as the Arcane. Sought to conquer Earth and used a time machine to trap the West Coast Avengers in the past. Was driven mad by Moon Knight and launched itself into outer space. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #17

DORMAMMU

Faltinian mystical being who assumed humanoid form and became dictator of the Dark Dimension. Possesses virtually unlimited magical powers. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #115

DRAGON MAN

Artificially created dragon-like being activated by Diablo. Possesses superhuman strength and durability, gigantic wings permitting flight, the ability to exhale flames, but only dog like intelligence. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #41

EGGHEAD

(Elihas Starr) Criminal scientist and archenemy of Dr. Henry Pym. Responsible for death of Hawkeye's brother Barney Barton and for framing of Henry Pym (as Yellowjacket I) for criminal activity. Founder of Masters of Evil III. Deceased. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #63

ELEMENTS OF DOOM

Sentient superhuman beings created by an experiment in the former Soviet Union. Each was a being apparently composed entirely of a specific element who could mentally alter his form. Members included Carbon, Chlorine, Cobalt, Phosphorus, Radium, and Vanadium. Adversaries of the Avengers. Destroyed. First appearance: AVENGERS #188

ELFQUEEN

(Linnea) Possible mutant who is apparently immortal and possesses energy manipulation powers that resemble magic. After her lover Garn was killed by policemen, she battled the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS #212

ENCHANTRESS

(Amora) Asgardian sorceress and longtime adversary of Thor. Former partner of Executioner II (Skurge). Has aided or masterminded attempts to conquer Asgard. Former member of Masters of Evil I. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #7

ENCLAVE

Small band of scientists who have sought to use their talents to establish themselves as dictators of Earth. Members include nuclear physicist Maris Morlak, geneticist Wladyslav Shinski, and electronics technician Carlo Zota. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #12

ETERNITY MAN

(Jason Beere) Insane, dying industrialist who had a bomb attached to his heart. Allegedly, when his heart stopped beating, the bomb would explode with force sufficient to destroy the Earth. Iron Man outfitted Beere with a chest device that kept his heart beating and then placed him in suspended animation. First appearance: AVENGERS #169

EXECUTIONER II

(Skurge) Former partner of the Enchantress, who frequently aided her plots against Thor, the Aveng-

ers, and Asgard. Former member of Masters of Evil I. Possessed vast superhuman strength and an enchanted axe that could create dimensional rifts. Now a member of the Einherjar, the valiant deceased warriors inhabiting Valhalla. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #7

FIXER II

(Norbert Ebersol) Costumed inventor who uses his advanced technology in the commission of crimes. Frequent partner of Mentallo and member of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #13

FOMOR

Extradimensional beings of Celtic legend with supernatural or superhuman powers. Known members include Balor, Bres, Cethlann, Dulb, Elathan, Indech, and Tethra. First appearance: AVENGERS #225

FREEDOM FORCE

Cadre of superhuman special government operatives, primarily made up of former criminals. The nucleus of Freedom Force was the second Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, comprised of Mystique (who was the leader of Freedom Force), Avalanche, the Blob, Destiny II, Pyro, and Spiral. Other members included the Crimson Commando, Stonewall, Super Sabre, and, for a brief time, Spider-Woman II. Disbanded. First Avengers appearance: (as Brotherhood of Evil Mutants) AVENGERS ANNUAL #10, (as Freedom Force) AVENGERS ANNUAL #15



GATHERERS

Team of superhuman adventurers from destroyed alternate Earths, all or most of whom were members of the Avengers of their worlds, who seek to destroy the Avengers of "mainstream" Earth. Led by Proctor, who has a particular hatred for Sersi. Members have included Cassandra, Magdalene, Sloth, Swordsman II, Tabula, and an alternate Earth counterpart of the Vision. The Gatherers' Vision has been destroyed, and Magdalene and Swordsman II are now allies of the Avengers of "mainstream" Earth. First appearance: AVENGERS #355

GHAUR

High priest of the Deviants who became the unofficial leader of Deviant Lemuria. Formed alliance with Llyra to recreate the Serpent Crown. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #18

GILA

Sentient creature created from a gila monster by the alien computer Dominus. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS, Vol. 2 #17

GOLIATH III

(Erik Josten, a. k. a. Power Man I, Smuggler) Former mercenary who was endowed with superhuman strength and durability by Enchantress using process devised by Baron Zemo I. Became the costumed criminal Power Man I, frequently partnered with the Swordsman. Adopted alias of Goliath after being given increased superhuman strength and the ability to grow to colossal size by Dr. Karl Malus. Member of Lethal Legions I and II and Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: (as Power Man I) AVENGERS #21, (as Goliath III) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #1

GRANDMASTER

(En Dwi Gast) Elder of the Universe who wields vast cosmic powers and is obsessed with playing games. First appearance: AVENGERS #69

GRAVITON

(Franklin Hall) Physicist who gained the superhuman power to control the force of gravity. Turned criminal mastermind and battled the Avengers and other costumed champions. First appearance: AVENGERS #158

GREAT LAKES AVENGERS

Team of superhuman adventurers based in Milwaukee who adopted the name of Avengers without the actual Avengers' permission. Later underwent training by Avengers Hawkeye and Mockingbird. Members include Big Bertha, who can increase her size, mass, and strength enormously; Dinah Soar, who has wings and can fly; Doorman, who can act as a portal through any solid object by standing before it; Flatman, who can flatten and elongate his body; and Mister Immortal, whose self-healing ability enables him to survive seeming death. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS #46

GREY GARGOYLE

(Paul Pierre Duval) Chemist turned professional criminal who discovered a means to transform himself into a being of "living stone" possessing superhuman strength and durability and the ability to transform other persons or objects into unliving stone for up to one hour. Member of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #190

GRIFFIN

(Johnny Horton) Small-time criminal who was transformed by the Secret Empire into a superhuman creature whose intelligence eventually declined to the level of an animal's. Now possesses a lion-like head, immense wings, and vast superhuman strength. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #10

GRIM REAPER

The story of Eric Williams, the Grim Reaper, is that of a man whose descent into obsession, evil, and madness was on such a grand scale that death itself could not put an end to it.

Eric was the younger brother of Simon Williams, the future Wonder Man, and like him suffered from beatings and psychological abuse from their tyrannical father Sanford. Whereas Simon retreated into his books and studies, Eric rebelled by becoming a thief. Eric tried to lead Simon into a life of crime as well, but at heart Eric deeply admired his older brother, idealizing him for his refusal to

adopt the dark path that the morally weaker Eric had chosen.

It was Simon who inherited full control of the family firm, Williams Manufacturing, on their father's death. But the bookish Simon was no businessman, and Williams Manufacturing's fortunes nose-dived as those of its principal rival, Stark Industries, skyrocketed.

By now Eric was a member of an East Coast family of the notorious crime syndicate called the Maggia. He tried to strongarm defense contractors into giving business to Williams Manufacturing, but these efforts proved insufficient. Hoping to save himself before the company went bankrupt, Simon embezzled money from the firm only to be caught and put on trial. Baron Zemo I obtained Simon's release, transformed him into the superpowered Wonder Man, and used him as his double agent within the Avengers. Wonder Man, however, turned against the Baron and seemed to die in saving the Avengers from him.

The news that the only person he truly cared for had seemingly perished started Eric Williams on his path towards insanity. Seeking to clear Simon's name, Eric let it be known that he himself was the real embezzler, and as time passed Eric seemed

even to have convinced himself of his own lie. More ominously, perhaps because Zemo himself soon died, Williams decided that the Avengers were to blame for Simon's death. Deciding to fight the Avengers on their own level, Eric commissioned the criminal inventor known as the Tinkerer to create a super-weapon for him. This was a scythe which, among other things, could discharge power blasts, rotate its blade like a buzzsaw, and emit electrical signals that could induce comas in his victims. Adopting an appropriate costumed identity, that of the Grim Reaper, Williams vowed to avenge his brother's death by bringing about the Avengers' own.

The Reaper's initial attempt to destroy the Avengers was thwarted single-handedly by the Black Panther. Learning from his mistake, the Reaper next organized a team of superhuman criminals, the original Lethal Legion, to attack the Avengers. This scheme likewise failed, and the Grim Reaper turned his mind to another project.

He stole Wonder Man's "corpse," but although, strangely, it had not deteriorated in the least, the Reaper had no idea how to resurrect it. He also formed an alliance with the Avengers' alien foe, the Space Phantom, and together they took com-



mand of a New York City area fragment of the subversive organization HYDRA. Having learned that the android Vision had been programmed with Wonder Man’s brain patterns, the Reaper plotted to recreate his brother by using the Space Phantom’s alien technology to transfer the Vision’s mind into a human body—that of Captain America. Ultimately, however, this scheme fell through when the Phantom turned against the Reaper.

Next the Grim Reaper hired the voodoo master known as the Black Talon to resurrect Wonder Man as a zombie. To everyone’s surprise Wonder Man proved to be truly alive and shook off his zombie-like state: when he had “died” he had merely sunk into a deep coma during which he completed his metamorphosis into a superhuman being. Puzzled, the Grim Reaper captured the Avengers and held a “trial” to determine whether Wonder Man or the Vision was more truly his brother, only to discover that Wonder Man was no longer technically truly human. Insanely enraged, the Reaper subsequently decided that neither Wonder Man nor the Vision was truly his brother but that instead they were mockeries of Simon’s greatness.

Failing to destroy them, the Reaper gathered together a new Lethal Legion, including the Talon, Nekra, and Ultron, and schemed to use brain patterns from both Wonder Man and the Vision to program the mind of a zombie made to resemble Simon Williams.

This plot collapsed and Wonder Man and the Vision together cornered the Reaper in a cavern and forced him to recognize not only that Wonder Man was indeed Simon, but that Simon had been the true embezzler and not the virtual saint Eric pretended he was. Overwhelmed by guilt that he had tried to kill his own brother, the Reaper fled from them and, perhaps intentionally, tumbled from a narrow ledge to his death.

And yet the madness of the Grim Reaper was still not over. Nekra had fallen in love with Eric and had the Talon resurrect him. His first return to life proved brief, but months later Nekra resurrected the Reaper once more. This time the Reaper had free will but from now on he had to absorb a human life force through his scythe every twenty-four hours. Now looking like a partly decayed corpse and unable to die by ordinary means, Eric Williams gloried in the idea that he had truly become a “Grim Reaper,” a living personification of death.

Eric soon renewed his feud with Wonder Man, although he discovered that Simon was immune to his new power. Shortly afterwards, the Reaper encountered Ultron, who permanently fused the scythe to Eric’s right hand.

Since the Grim Reaper has become a creature of the supernatural, he recently has allied himself with demonic entities such as the elder god Lloigoroth and Mephisto’s son Blackheart in his continuing attacks on both the Avengers and Wonder Man. During a battle with his brother in Mephisto’s realm the Reaper had a change of heart and saved Wonder Man from being slain by Mephisto at the cost of his own life.

Yet the Grim Reaper has never made peace with his brother for long. Indeed, since not even death has been able to stop him in the past, perhaps the Avengers can never truly be free of his threat.

First appearance: AVENGERS #52

GROTESK

(Prince Gor-Tok II) Last survivor and former prince of the Gortokians, a warlike, civilized race of Subterraneans. Underground atomic explosions

wiped out the entire race except for Grotesk, whose mind and body were distorted by the radiation. Has vowed to destroy the surface world in revenge. Possesses superhuman strength and durability. Now rules those Lava Men who have not evolved into golden-skinned forms. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #20

GROWING MAN

“Stimuloid” (a form of android) created by Kang the Conqueror. Absorbs most forms of kinetic energy directed against it and is therefore not harmed by it. The absorbed energy stimulates the rapid multiplication of the stimuloid’s artificial cells, causing it to grow rapidly in size, strength, and durability. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #69

HALFLIFE I

(Real name unrevealed) Extraterrestrial humanoid with the power to accelerate the aging process in other living beings. Halflife can also generate intense radiation of an unknown kind, producing enough heat to melt steel walls. Former ally of Graviton. First appearance : WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #12

HANGMAN II

(Jason Roland) Actor who optioned his soul to Satannish in exchange for movie stardom. Acquiring superhuman powers from Satannish, Roland adopted the costumed identity of the Hangman and became the second leader of the Night Shift. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #76

HARKNESS, AGATHA

Benevolent witch who has acted as mentor to the Scarlet Witch. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #127

HATE-MONGER IV

(Real name unrevealed) Mysterious being who feeds off the psionic energies released by the hatred of others. Can induce hatred in others or use the psionic energy he receives from hatred to strike down others. Can alter his form within unknown limits. First appearance: AVENGERS #341

HEADLOK

(Arthur Goddard) Criminal with the superhuman psionic ability to influence or control the minds of other beings. Physical body was slain by Aurora of Alpha Flight. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #10

HEAVY METAL

Team of androids organized and led against the Avengers by the Super-Adaptoid. Members included the Awesome Android, the Doomsday Man, Machine Man (who rebelled against the others), Kree Sentry 459, and Tess-One. First appearance: AVENGERS #288

HERA

Queen of Olympus. Wife of Zeus and mother of Ares. Longtime enemy of Hercules. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #284

HIGH EVOLUTIONARY

(Herbert Edgar Wyndham) Genius in genetic engineering who created the New Men, animals given human-level intelligence and near-human form. Evolved himself into godlike being, then returned to human form, but now possessing an intellect at the height of human potential, with vast

psionic powers. Adversary of the Avengers in the “Evolutionary War.” First Avengers appearance: GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1

HURRICANE I

Criminal of the 19th Century American West, known for his prowess as a “fast draw” with his guns. Member of Iron Mask’s gang that battled the time-traveling West Coast Avengers. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #18

HYENA

(Henry Mortonson) Master criminal with a grotesquely large smile. American-based Nazi agent during World War II. Still active in the present. Longtime enemy of Human Torch I. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #83

HYPERION II

(Zhib-Ran) Nearly perfect duplicate of Hyperion I who was created from non-living extradimensional matter by the Grandmaster as a pawn to use against the Avengers. Member of the Squadron Sinister. Deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #69

IMMORTUS

(Nathaniel Richards II, a. k. a. Rama-Tut, Scarlet Centurion, Kang) Final identity assumed by the man known as Rama-Tut and Kang. Ruler of the timeless realm of Limbo. Master of travel through and manipulation of time and alternate time lines. Enigmatic figure who sometimes appears to be a power-hungry conqueror but other times seems to be a wise and benevolent guardian of time. First appearance: AVENGERS #10

IMPERIAL GUARD

Legion of super-powered champions from throughout the Shi’ar Empire who act as enforcers of Shi’ar imperial law. Members include Astra, Earthquake, Electron, Glom, Hardball, Hussar, Impulse I, Magique, Manta, Mentor II, Moondancer, Neutron, Nightside, Onslaught, Oracle, Scintilla, Shape-Shifter, Smasher III, the Solar Wind, Starbolt, Tempest, Titan, Voyager, and Warstar. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #80

INFERNO II

(Joseph Conroy) Steel mill worker who fell into a vat of electrified, white-hot liquid metal along with a chip from Thor I’s magic uru hammer. As a result Conroy was transformed into a superhumanly strong humanoid creature composed of “living slag” who could radiate intense heat and drain energy from power sources. Committed suicide. First appearance: AVENGERS #192

IRON MASK

Criminal mastermind of the 19th Century American West. Wore a suit of armor that was virtually invulnerable to damage by conventional weaponry of that time. Led other notorious criminals of his day, including Doctor Danger, the Fat Man, Hurricane I, Rattler II and Red Raven I against the Two-Gun Kid, Rawhide Kid, Phantom Rider II, and the time-traveling West Coast Avengers. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #18

IXAR

Last known survivor of the alien Sirian race and former ruler of Sirius III. Creator of the androids known as the Ultroids. Impersonated the burgo-master of the Transian village in which Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch were raised. First appearance: AVENGERS #36

JONES, RICK

(Richard M. Jones) Adventurer, author, and folk and rock and roll singer and guitarist. In saving Jones from a gamma bomb explosion, Bruce Banner was exposed to radiation that transformed him into the Hulk. Jones subsequently became the Hulk's friend and confidant. Leader of the original Teen Brigade, a network of youths who communicated by ham radio. Became the friend and ally of the Avengers. Briefly became the combat partner of Captain America. Later used Kree nega-bands to exchange places with Captain Mar-Vell in the Negative Zone. Jones's vast psionic potential was briefly activated by the Supreme Intelligence during the first Kree-Skrull War. Jones is now again the friend and companion of the original Hulk. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1

KALA

Queen of the underground realm of Netherworlders. Exposure to the atmosphere of that realm maintains Kala's youth; she rapidly becomes elderly when she leaves it. Has renounced her previous ambitions of conquest of Earth and has left her own kingdom to live as the consort of the Mole Man. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #20

KALLUSIANS

Humanoid aliens who waged war for centuries against an unnamed alien race. Forced to flee their homeworld, the Kallusians secretly established a city beneath Earth's Arctic ice cap, where they clashed with the Avengers. The Kallusians subsequently left Earth to engage their alien enemies in combat. Led by Ogor. First appearance: AVENGERS #14

KANG THE CONQUEROR

A man of many names and seemingly numberless personas, a ruthless tyrant of both the ancient past and the distant future, a brilliant scientist and merciless warrior, Kang the Conqueror has proved himself to be the greatest and most formidable of the Avengers' archfoes.

Yet the more that the Avengers have learned about their constant nemesis, the greater an enigma he becomes. Although he has apparently died many times, somehow he has always managed to transcend physical mortality and return to plague the Avengers again. Even his true name remains a mystery.

He once lived in the 30th century A. D. of an alternate timeline that diverged from "mainstream" Earth's back in the Dark Ages. He was known as Nathaniel Richards, named after his alleged ancestor who had traveled to that timeline a millennium before, and who had been the father of Mister Fantastic. But this second Nathaniel suspected his true ancestor was another man who had learned the secret of interdimensional travel, Doctor Doom.

A historical scholar, Nathaniel II found himself alienated from the peaceful utopia of his age. Fascinated with the great warriors of past times and timelines, especially the super heroes of the 20th Century, Nathaniel II dreamed of becoming a man of action himself.

Within the ruins of his family's citadel, Nathaniel II discovered the key to realizing his dreams: the remains of a time machine invented by his ancestor. Nathaniel built a vast timeship that he filled with advanced weaponry and robot soldiers, and disguised as a monumental Sphinx. Then he traveled back in time to ancient Egypt, swiftly conquered the country, and set himself up as their

new dictator, the Pharaoh Rama-Tut.

His rule came to an abrupt end due to the intervention of the time-traveling Fantastic Four, and Rama-Tut escaped in a smaller timeship into the 20th Century. There he adopted a new persona, the Scarlet Centurian, and manipulated events in order to create a new alternate timeline, in which the original Avengers served as his pawns in the conquest of Earth. A team of Avengers from the "mainstream" timeline set matters aright, and the Centurian fled from them into the far future.

Overshooting the 30th Century, Rama-Tut arrived in the war-torn 40th Century, an age in which technology had grown even more advanced, but humanity had lost the knowledge of how it worked. Swiftly mastering this lost science, Rama-Tut created a weapon-filled battlesuit inspired by the armor of Doctor Doom. As Kang the Conqueror, he then made himself master of Earth. As years passed he would extend his empire throughout the galaxy and even into the Earths of alternate timelines.

But this was not enough for him. Kang would not be satisfied unless he matched himself in battle with the super heroes of the 20th Century and proved himself to be their master. So he traveled to the time period of the Avengers and challenged

them to stop him from his intended conquest of 20th Century Earth. The overconfident warlord expected an easy victory, but ended fleeing from the Avengers back into the timestream. It was then that he formulated a master plan by which he would shape the course of the entire 20th Century.

Journeying back to 1900 he took on another new persona, that of Victor Timely, inventor and entrepreneur who founded the company town of Timely, Wisconsin, where he introduced principles of robotics and cybernetics decades before Earth's scientists would have discovered them on their own. Hence, Kang guided the development of 20th Century technology for reasons that have yet to be revealed.

Timely, Wisconsin also served as the nexus between 20th Century Earth and Kang's timeless city of Chronopolis, from which he ruled his enormous multiversal empire. The most amazing aspect of Chronopolis is that it serves as a gateway to various periods from Earth's past and future.

As he ceaselessly journeyed through time, Kang continued to clash with the Avengers. In one memorable example, Kang transported four Avengers to 30th Century Earth, where he took them on in combat to impress the Princess Ravonna, ruler of the last free kingdom on Earth. Enraged by her



repeated refusals to marry him, Kang took her kingdom by force. But when his subordinate Bartag attempted to overthrow him, Kang joined forces with both Ravonna and the Avengers to thwart the coup and free her kingdom. In revenge Bartag tried to assassinate Kang but shot Ravonna instead, who sank into a coma after telling Kang she now realized she loved him.

Deeply distraught, Kang believed all of his power and conquests meant nothing without Ravonna. He preserved her on the brink of death by placing her in suspended animation but was unable to heal her injuries. The alien Grandmaster offered to give him the power of life and death for a mere moment if Kang could defeat him in a game. Using the Avengers as his pawns, Kang triumphed, but seized with rage at his longtime foes, chose to use the power the Grandmaster gave him to kill the Avengers rather than revive his beloved. This was the greatest mistake of Kang's life: not only did he fail to slay his foes but he seemingly lost his one chance to save Ravonna.

However, unknown to Kang, the Grandmaster took his revenge by creating a divergent reality in which he healed and revived Ravonna and told her Kang had renounced his chance to bring her back to life. Infuriated, Ravonna vowed to take her vengeance on Kang.

Thinking Ravonna was lost to him, Kang embarked on a mad scheme to find and mate with the legendary "Celestial Madonna," a 20th Century woman destined to bear a child who could dominate the universe. The Madonna turned out to be the Avengers' ally Mantis, but Kang was again thwarted due to the intervention of his own selves from divergent futures, Rama-Tut and Immortus.

Each time Kang travels through time, he triggers the creation of a divergent timeline, with its own Kang. These Kangs of alternate timelines became members of the Council of Cross-Time Kangs, which also includes aliens, both humanoid and non-humanoid, who have adopted Kang's name and costume. This Council was organized by the original, "prime" Kang, who rules from Chronopolis, to serve as governors of the various divisions of his empire.

Posing as the space pirate Nebula, Ravonna infiltrated the Council of Cross-Time Kangs to subvert the Council's operations. When the Avengers finally found and invaded Chronopolis, she finally confronted the "prime" Kang in her new identity as the Terminatrix. In the course of the ensuing combats, Kang was fatally injured. Reversing their past roles, Ravonna placed Kang in suspended animation while she took over ruling his empire.

Recently, the Terminatrix encountered her own divergent future self, Revelation, who persuaded her to revive Kang so that he could defeat Alioth, an entity menacing Chronopolis. As his weapon Kang used the humanoid construct Tempus, which absorbed not only Alioth's energies but also those of many Council members.

Traveling back in time, Ravonna and Kang were married as Rebecca and Victor Timely in Timely, Wisconsin in 1901. But although Kang has found happiness, at least for a time, his war with the Avengers had not yet come to its end.

It is known that at some future date Kang will again be the enemy and rival of Ravonna, who will rule her own temporal empire as Revelation. They will eventually reconcile and rule their empires jointly. Sometime still later, in one of Kang's future timelines, he will give up his life of conquest and return to ancient Egypt to rule benevolently as a reformed Rama-Tut. In his pharaonic guise he will return to the 20th Century to aid the Avengers in

thwarting Kang's plot against the Celestial Madonna. Thereafter he will travel into timeless limbo and adopt his final identity, that of the timelord Immortus. Sometimes Immortus has seemed to be the Avengers' wise ally and at other times their malevolent adversary.

It is as Immortus that he will be reunited with Ravonna once more. They will still love each other when, after growing very old, they finally die in the presence of their son and heir, Marcus Immortus.
First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #8

KEEPER OF THE FLAME

(Lann) Power-mad religious leader of the people of El Dorado who supervised the vastly powerful cobalt energy flame generated by ancient Deviant technology. Member of "They Who Wield Power." Adversary of the Avengers and the Hulk. First appearance: AVENGERS #30

KID COLT

(Blaine Colt) Heroic gunslinger of the 19th Century American West who may have been the fastest draw of his time. Unjustly believed to be a criminal, Kid Colt actually used his skill with guns to defend innocent people from criminals. First Avengers appearance: **AVENGERS #142**

KLAW

(Ulysses Klaw) Physicist and professional criminal who was transformed into a humanoid being composed of solidified sound vibrations. Wears a weapon containing a sonic converter in place of his right hand; this device can project sonic blasts and create mobile sound/mass constructs. Long-time archfoe of the Black Panther. Member of Masters of Evil II. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #54

KORVAC

(Michael Korvac a. k. a. The Enemy) Computer technician who was born in the 30th Century of the alternate future Earth of the Guardians of the Galaxy. Korvac used energies from Galactus's worldship to create for himself a perfect, fully human body with vast cosmic power. Traveling to the recent past on the Avengers' Earth, Korvac plotted to conquer its universe. Opposed by the Avengers and Guardians, Korvac willed his physical body to die, while projecting his consciousness and cosmic power into the body of his ancestor in that time. Eventually, Korvac's mind traveled into the future of his native timeline and entered his own infant body. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #167



KREE

Extraterrestrial humanoid race who have established a vast galactic empire in the Greater Magellanic Cloud rivaling those of the Skrulls and Shi'ar in size and might. The original Kree were blue-skinned, but a second racial group with pink skins emerged over the millennia. Ruled for much of their history by the Supreme Intelligence. Long-time enemies of the Skrulls. Recently most of the Kree Empire's population was wiped out by the Supreme Intelligence, and the Empire was conquered by the Shi'ar. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #89

KUBIK

Sentient being who was originally a Cosmic Cube, a force field matrix entrapping vast other-dimensional energies. This Cube, created by AIM, fell into the hands of various individuals and Project Pegasus until it finally "hatched" and achieved sentience. Has now reached maturity. Possesses ability to manipulate reality without apparent limit. First Avengers appearance: (as Cosmic Cube) AVENGERS #40, (as Kubik) AVENGERS #289

LADY LIBERATORS

Feminist team of female costumed adventurers, organized by the Enchantress while posing as Brunnhilda the Valkyrie. Membership included the Black Widow, Medusa, the Scarlet Witch, and the Wasp. First appearance: AVENGERS #83

LAVA MEN

Race of Subterraneans that was transformed by the demon Cha'Sa'Dra, giving them red skin of rock-hard consistency and unusual superhuman powers. Lava Men possess high resistance to extreme heat and flame, can generate intense heat from their bodies, can mystically cause large amounts of volcanic ash to appear, and can transform metal into ash. A small number of Lava Men have undergone a metamorphosis endowing them with smooth golden skins, the ability to change shape, and the ability to merge with each other physically. The other remaining Lava Men are now ruled by Grotesk. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #5

LEGION OF THE UNLIVING I

Team of combatants, mostly superhuman, who were brought to Immortus's limbo from past time periods by Kang to battle the Avengers. Included Baron Zemo I, the Flying Dutchman, Frankenstein's Monster I, Human Torch I, Midnight I, and Wonder Man. First appearance: AVENGERS #131

LEGION OF THE UNLIVING II

Doppelgangers of deceased combatants created by the Grandmaster to battle the Avengers. Members included doppelgangers of Baron Blood I, Bucky I, Captain Marvel I, Death Adder, Dracula, Drax the Destroyer, Executioner II, Green Goblin I, Hyperion II, Korvac, Nighthawk II, Red Guardian II, Swordsman I, and Terrax. First appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #16

LEGION OF THE UNLIVING III

Team of doppelgangers of combatants from past and future times created by Immortus to battle the West Coast Avengers. Members included doppelgangers of Black Knight II, Grim Reaper, Iron Man of 2020 AD, Left-Winger, Oort the Living Comet, Right-Winger, Swordsman I, and Toro. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #61

LETHAL LEGION I

Team of superhuman criminals led and organized by the Grim Reaper. Members included the Living Laser, the Man-Ape, Power Man I, and the Swordsman. First appearance: AVENGERS #78

LETHAL LEGION II

Team of superhuman criminals employed by Count Nefaria. Members included the Living Laser, Power Man I, and the Whirlwind. First appearance: AVENGERS #164

LETHAL LEGION III

Team of superhuman criminals organized by the Grim Reaper. Members included Black Talon II, Goliath III, the Man-Ape, Nekra, and Ultron. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #1



LETHAL LEGION IV

Team of superhuman warriors led by Hangman II. The other members, who were deceased evildoers resurrected and endowed with superhuman powers by Satannish, include Axe of Violence, Coldesteel, Cyana, and Zyklon. Adversaries of U.S. Agent and the Avengers West Coast. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #98

LION GOD

(Real name unrevealed) African deity who is the rival of the Panther God of Wakanda. Can take possession of a mortal host body. Wields a powerful totem-stick. Commands lions. Virtually indestructible. Enemy of the Black Panther. First appearance: AVENGERS #112

LIVING BOMBS

Team of fanatics who protested granting equal human rights to androids. Sought to destroy the Vision by setting off explosives strapped to their bodies. All known members committed suicide. First appearance: AVENGERS #113

LIVING LASER

(Arthur Parks) Research scientist turned costumed criminal who wielded powerful laser weaponry. Later became sentient energy being who can discharge laser-like beams of photons. Former member of Mandarin's Minions and Lethal Legions

I and II. First appearance: AVENGERS #34

LIVING TOTEM

Gigantic extraterrestrial being possessing superhuman strength whose starship crash-landed on Earth in the 19th Century American West. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #18

LLOIGOROTH

Demon of the Nameless Ones. Manifests himself as an enormous humanoid hand with eyes on its fingers and a mouth in its palm. Granted supernatural powers to the Grim Reaper. First appearance: AVENGERS #352

LLYRA

(Llyra Morris) Daughter of a Lemurian member of Homo mermanus and a surface human woman. Usurped the throne of her father's Lemuria for a time. Became the longtime archenemy of the Sub-Mariner and is responsible for the deaths of his wife Dorma, his father, and his cousin Namora. Ally of Ghaur. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #18

LOKI

(Loki Laufeyson) Asgardian god of evil and mischief. Adopted son of Odin. Possesses vast magical powers. Has repeatedly sought to gain the throne of Asgard and to defeat his foster brother Thor. Mastermind of the "Acts of Vengeance." First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #1

LUNA

(Luna Maximoff) First known offspring of an Inhuman and a human mutant. Daughter of Crystal and Quicksilver. Possesses no known superhuman powers. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #12

MADAME X

(Real name unrevealed) Communist spy and mistress of disguise. Wields a gun that shoots poison gas. Enemy of Dr. Henry Pym. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #33

MAD THINKER

(Real name unknown) Criminal genius whose specialties are the design and use of computers, robots, and androids, and the ability to calculate the probability of future events in extraordinary detail. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #39

MAELSTROM

(Real name unrevealed, a. k. a. Anomaly II, Malcolm Stromberg, the Cosmic Assassin) Hybrid offspring of an Inhuman father and Deviant mother. Possessed highly advanced knowledge of genetics and the superhuman ability to absorb kinetic energy. Later assumed the powers and identity of the abstract entity Anomaly. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #247

MAGGIA

International crime syndicate that is the world's most powerful and extensive organization dedicated to conventional forms of crime. First appearance: AVENGERS #13

MAGNETO

(Erik Magnus Lehnsherr) One of Earth's most powerful mutants, possessing the ability to manipulate vast magnetic energies and related forces. Willing to use criminal and terrorist means against normal humanity to defend and uphold the rights of mu-

tants. Father of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #47

MAN-APE

(M'Baku) Wakandan warrior who gained the superhuman physical abilities of the Wakandan white gorilla through mystical means. Enemy of the Black Panther. Member of Lethal Legions I and III. First appearance: AVENGERS #62

MANDARIN

(Real name unrevealed) Former Chinese government official who discovered an alien Makluan starship and mastered its advanced technology, including ten power rings that command extraordinary powers. Has made repeated efforts to conquer all of mainland China and the rest of the world. Greatest archenemy of Iron Man I. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #20

MANDROID

Heavily armored battlesuit that contains a highly advanced weapons system. Originally developed by Stark International for use by SHIELD for combat against superhuman beings. First appearance: AVENGERS #94

MANIPULATOR I

(Real name, if any, unrevealed) Costumed criminal, apparently a robot, who utilizes his knowledge of behavioral science to manipulate and study his victims' actions. It is unclear whether or not the similarly costumed Manipulator who contended with the Beast and Wonder Man was the robot or a human being who had created the robot. First appearance: AVENGERS #178

MANIPULATOR II

(Real name unrevealed) Costumed subversive mastermind associated with the criminal Conclave. Possesses the ability to manipulate other people in his presence mentally. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #85

MASTER PANDEMONIUM

(Martin Preston) Movie executive who fell victim to an automobile accident in which he lost his right arm. He made a deal with Mephisto, who replaced his human arms with demonic ones. Can cause his arms to transform into hordes of demons who obey his commands. Can also project mystical "demonflame." First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #4

MAXIMUS

Mentally unstable brother of Black Bolt and member of the Inhumans Royal Family. Genius inventor who has made repeated efforts to usurp Black Bolt's throne, some of which have been temporarily successful. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #95

MELTER

(Bruno Horgan) Former industrialist who used a melting beam for criminal purposes. Member of Masters of Evil I and II. Deceased. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #6

MINOTAUR I

Enormous horned monster that resembles a humanoid bull and that dwells in Subterranea. First appearance: AVENGERS #17

MISS AMERICA

(Madeline Joyce Frank) Costumed adventurer during the 1940s. Wife of Whizzer I, mother of Nuklo.

Died in giving birth to a stillborn child. First Avengers appearance: GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1

MISTER HYDE

(Dr. Calvin Zabo) Biochemist who created a chemical formula that increases his height and mass and endows him with superhuman strength and durability, as well as distorted facial features, and turned criminal. Member of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #273

MODAM

(Mobile Organism Designed for Aggressive Maneuvers, a. k. a. Sodam, possibly named Olinka Barankova) Woman subjected to mutagenic chemicals and radiation, causing her brain tissue to grow at an extraordinary rate. Her head is now enormous, while the rest of her body's musculature has atrophied. She now possesses genius-level intelligence and the ability to project psionic force as heat, concussive energy, or protective force fields. Servant of AIM. Formerly claimed to be Henry Pym's wife Maria. First appearance: (as "Maria Pym") WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #36

MODRED THE MYSTIC

Sorcerer of the 6th Century A. D. who fell under the control of the demonic Elder God Chthon. Entered suspended animation and was revived in the 20th Century. Has battled various superhuman champions while under the control of Chthon. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #186

MOLE MAN

(Rupert, last name unrevealed) Misfit who became ruler of much of the underground realm of Subterranea, the race of Molian Subterraneans, and numerous mutate monsters dwelling beneath Monster Island. Has taken Kala as his consort. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #12

MOLECULE MAN

(Owen Reece) Laboratory technician who gained vast psionic abilities to manipulate molecules. At first the Molecule Man sought vengeance on the world he believed had mistreated him, but later sought merely to live peaceably. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #266

MONSIEUR KHRULL

(Full name unrevealed) Vietnamese crimelord. Former employer of Swordsman I. Uncle of Mantis. First appearance: AVENGERS #121

MOONSTONE II

(Karla Sofen) Criminal psychiatrist, adept at manipulating the behavior of others, who gained superhuman strength, the power of flight, and the ability to project laser-like beams from her hands. Member of Masters of Evil III and IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #228

MORGAN LE FEY

Half-human, half-faerie sorceress who was the half-sister and archenemy of King Arthur Pendragon. Still active in astral form as archfoe of Black Knight III. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #240

MOTHER NIGHT

(Susan Scarbo, a. k. a. Suprema) Costumed hypnotist who is a principal aide to the Red Skull. Sometime partner to her brother, Minister Blood. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #323

NANNY

(Real name unrevealed) Inventor specializing in

cyborg technology who worked for the Right. The Right imprisoned her within an egg-shaped cyborg battlesuit. Since then, Nanny has dedicated herself to saving mutant children from exploitation, although she uses criminal methods. Ally of Orphan-Maker. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #299

NEBULA I

(Real name unrevealed) Alien space pirate and would-be conqueror who claims to be the granddaughter of her enemy Thanos. Has twice gained and lost vast superhuman powers. First appearance: AVENGERS #257

NEBULA II

See Temptress.

NEBULON

(Real name unrevealed) Alien Ul'lulan whose true form was that of a gigantic six-tentacled cephalopod, but who could adopt the form of a gold-skinned humanoid. Possessed various energy manipulation powers. Sought to conquer the Earth. Apparently killed in attempting to prevent the suicide of his wife Supernalia. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #11

NECRODAMUS

(Real name unrevealed) Sorcerer who serves the Undying Ones. Foe of the Scarlet Witch. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #128

NEKRA

(Nekra Sinclair) Mutant criminal, subversive, and cult priestess whose violent emotions create adrenal surges that heighten her strength, endurance, and durability to superhuman levels. Former ally of the Grim Reaper. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #2

NGH THE UNSPEAKABLE

Other-dimensional alien who led a horde of inter-dimensional criminals like himself. Created when an unnamed alien humanoid split into two beings, Ngh and Ahh. Could augment his superhuman powers by feeding off psionic energies generated by evil activity. Recently merged again with Ahh to reform the humanoid being they had formerly been. First appearance: AVENGERS #327

NIGHT SHIFT

Team of criminals with superhuman or supernatural powers that was organized by the Shroud to aid him in combating other criminal organizations. Except for the Werewolf, none of the other members of the Night Shift knew that the Shroud was actually a crimefighter. The Shroud and Werewolf eventually left the team, which came under the leadership of Hangman II. Current membership includes Hangman II, Brothers Grimm II, Dansen Macabre, Digger, Gypsy Moth, Misfit, the Needle, Tatterdemalion, and Ticktock. Based in the Los Angeles area, using the mystical Tower of Shadows as their primary headquarters. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #40

NUKLO

(Robert Frank, Jr.) Mutant son of Whizzer I and Miss America. Possesses superhuman strength, speed, and durability. Formerly emitted dangerous levels of radiation. Former adversary of the Avengers. First appearance: GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1

ORKA THE KILLER WHALE

Atlantean criminal with superhuman strength and

durability comparable to those of a killer whale.
First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #149

ORPHAN-MAKER

(Peter, last name unrevealed) Armored warrior aide to Nanny, who aids her in her criminal efforts to rescue mutant children from exploitation. He often murders the parents of such children, thereby making them into orphans. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #299

PACIFIC OVERLORDS

Team of superhuman beings who are from countries along the "Pacific Rim" and who serve Doctor Demonicus. Members include Cybertooth, Irezumi, Jawbreaker, Dr. Kain, and Kuroko. Former members include the Living Lightning, the hypnotized Pele and Sunfire, and the child called the Big One. First appearance: (unnamed) AVENGERS WEST COAST #69, (named) AVENGERS WEST COAST #70

PALADIN

(Real name unrevealed) Costumed adventurer for hire who possesses superhuman strength, speed, and stamina. Wields a stun gun. Occasional ally of the Avengers. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #251

PEACE CORPSE

See Combine.

PELE

(Michi Sasaki) Japanese woman endowed by Doctor Demonicus with superhuman abilities. Can generate intense heat and flame about her body without harm to herself and project heat and flame. Also possesses the ability to fly. Hypnotized into serving Demonicus as one of his Pacific Overlords, but finally rebelled. Wife of Taifu and mother of the Big One. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #71

PEOPLE'S PROTECTORATE

Team of costumed champions that was organized by the government of the Soviet Union and that now serves the Russian government. Includes Crimson Dynamo V, Fantasma, Perun, Red Guardian IV, and Vostok. Formerly known as the Supreme Soviets. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #319

PHANTOM RIDER I

(Carter Slade, a. k. a. Ghost Rider I, Night Rider I) Schoolteacher who became a costumed champion of the 19th Century American West. Killed by outlaws. Brother of Phantom Rider III and great-great-uncle of Phantom Rider IV, whose body he now cohabits. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #142

PHANTOM RIDER III

(Lincoln Slade, a. k. a. Ghost Rider III, Night Rider III) Brother of Phantom Rider I who adopted his costumed identity after the latter's death. Hunted criminals during his lifetime but apparently went mad. Used a potion to make the time-traveling Mockingbird fall in love with him. However, she regained her free will and he fell to his death in combat with her. His ghost took possession of his descendant Hamilton Slade, transforming him into Phantom Rider IV. However, Phantom Rider III's spirit was finally driven from his descendant's body. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #18



PHANTOM RIDER IV

(Hamilton Slade, a. k. a. Ghost Rider IV, Night Rider IV) Archaeologist who was possessed by the spirit of his ancestor, Phantom Rider III, endowing him with supernatural powers. Hamilton Slade now instead serves as the host body for Phantom Rider I and is aware of his dual identity. Operates as a crimefighter in the present day American West. Member of the Rangers. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #8

PLANTMAN

(Samuel Smithers) English-born costumed criminal with advanced scientific expertise on plant life, who employs plants as weapons. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #231

PLUTO

(Hades) Brother of Zeus and god of the Olympian underworld. Has sought to conquer Earth and Olympus. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #282

PORTAL

(Charles Little Sky) Adolescent American Indian with the superhuman power to open portals into

other dimensions. First appearance: AVENGERS #304

PRIESTS OF PAMA

Kree cult of pacifists that has established itself on numerous inhabited planets. Allied with the Cotati, whom they have transplanted to these worlds. The Priests of Pama of Earth raised and trained Mantis. First appearance: AVENGERS #133

PROMETHEUS I

Titan of Greco-Roman mythology known for his wisdom and benevolence. In recent times Prometheus saved Hercules's life and aided the Avengers against unjust persecution by Zeus. First appearance: AVENGERS #282

PSYKLOP

Intelligent insectoid/semi-humanoid being with a single compound eye who claims to be a survivor of a race that evolved from insects and once dominated prehistoric Earth. Possesses hypnotic powers. Serves unidentified "dark gods." Apparently deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #88

PYRON THE THERMAL MAN

(Real name unrevealed) Industrial saboteur who

was mutated by a thermite explosion into a superhuman being who glows and radiates intense heat. First appearance: AVENGERS #206

QUANTUM

Humanoid alien who possesses the superhuman power to occupy multiple positions in space at nearly the same time, by rapidly teleporting himself back and forth among these positions. Possesses superhuman strength and durability, the ability to fly, and the power to generate flames of unknown composition about himself without harm to himself. Former ally of Graviton. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #12

QUASIMODO

(Quasi-Motivational Destruct Organism) Sentient computer created by the Mad Thinker and first given mobile humanoid form by the Silver Surfer. Adversary of the Vision. Now exists as pure consciousness, which can take over computer systems. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #135

RADIOACTIVE MAN

(Chen Lu) Nuclear physicist of the People's Republic of China who underwent mutation through exposure to radiation. Thus became a superhuman being with iridescent green skin who continually emits dangerous radiation. Can emit radiation in the form of intense heat, energy blasts, force fields, or "hard" radiation. Former member of Masters of Evil I, II, and III and the Titanic Three. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #6

RAMA-TUT

(Nathaniel Richards II, a. k. a. Kang, Scarlet Centurion, Immortus) Historical scholar from the 31st Century A. D. of an alternate timeline who journeyed back through time to ancient Egypt, where he used his futuristic science to make himself pharaoh. Journeyed to the 20th Century A. D. and assumed the identity of the Scarlet Centurion. Later traveled to 41st Century Earth and became Kang the Conqueror. Eventually tired of his life of conquest, returned to ancient Egypt, and resumed his Rama-Tut identity. Ruled Egypt benevolently until he placed himself in suspended animation, from which he awoke in the 20th Century A. D. to battle himself as Kang. Eventually took the new identity of Immortus. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #129

RANGERS

Team of costumed crimefighters based in the American Southwest. Members include Firebird, Phantom Rider IV, Red Wolf II, Shooting Star, and the Texas Twister. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #8

RAPTOR

(Gary Wilton, Jr.) Teenage boy who was subjected to mutagenic chemicals before his birth. As a result he can transform into a sentient half-human, half-avian creature with a bird's head and beak, feathered wings enabling him to fly, and clawed hands and feet. Ally of the Avengers West Coast. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST ANNUAL #8

RAVONNA

See Terminatrix.

RAWHIDE KID

(Johnny Bart, a. k. a. Clay) Crimefighting gunfighter of the 19th Century American West who was unjustly wanted as an outlaw. First Avengers appear-

ance: AVENGERS #142

RAZOR-FIST II

(Real name unrevealed) Mercenary, assassin, and enforcer whose hands were replaced with steel blades. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #11

RED GHOST

(Ivan Kragoff) Soviet-born criminal scientist with the superhuman ability to render himself or nearby inanimate objects intangible. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #12

RED GUARDIAN II

(Alexi Shostakov) Former Soviet test pilot who became the second known Soviet agent to use the costumed identity of the Red Guardian. Master of unarmed combat, who also hurled a "belt-buckle" disc as a weapon. Husband of the Black Widow, who turned against her after she defected to the United States. Shot by Chinese Colonel Ling while saving the life of the Black Widow, and then was killed by molten lava. First appearance: AVENGERS #43

RED GUARDIAN V

(Josef Petkus) Costumed adventurer who is the latest to wear the uniform of the Red Guardian. Carries a shield made of an unknown alloy. Master of unarmed combat and acrobatics. Member of the People's Protectorate. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #319

RED RONIN

Gigantic combat robot operated by a human pilot. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #197

RED WOLF III

(Will Talltrees) Cheyenne chosen by the Wolf Spirit Owayodata to be the champion of Native Americans. Member of the Rangers. First appearance: AVENGERS #80

RHINO

(Real name unrevealed) Criminal possessing great superhuman strength and durability who wears a costume that is highly impervious to damage and that resembles a rhinoceros's hide. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #237





RINGMASTER II

(Maynard Tiboldt, a. k. a. Ringmaster of Crime)
Criminal leader of the Circus of Crime. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #22

RINGO KID

Heroic gunfighter of the 19th Century American West who was treated as an outcast because he was the son of a white man and an American Indian princess. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #142

RONAN THE ACCUSER

Supreme Public Accuser (judge and law enforcement officer) of the Kree Empire. Carries the Universal Weapon, a device which uses cosmic energy for a wide variety of effects. Formerly conspired against and briefly overthrew the rule of the Kree Supreme Intelligence, but was later restored to his former position as Supreme Public Accuser. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #89

SATANNISH

Demonic being of vast supernatural power who

rules an other-dimensional netherworld. Makes pacts with human beings granting them mystical power in exchange for ownership of their souls. Master of the human cultists known as the Sons of Satannish. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #76

SAVAGE LAND MUTATES

Group of Swamp Men of the Savage Land who were artificially mutated by Magneto, endowing them with superhuman powers. Members have included Amphibius, Barbarus, Brainchild, Equilibrium, Gaze, Lorelei I, Lupo, and Piper I. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #105

SCARLET CENTURION

(Nathaniel Richards II) Identity assumed by Pharaoh Rama-Tut during his first visit to the Twentieth Century. The Centurion triggered the creation of a divergent reality in which he took control of the minds of the original Avengers and used them as his pawns in conquering the Earth. The Centurion was defeated in this scheme by Avengers from "mainstream" reality. The Centurion then traveled to the 50th Century, where he assumed

the identity of Kang the Conqueror. However, a divergence occurred in which a counterpart of the Centurion traveled to an alternate 50th century future of the Earth of the Squadron Supreme, who became his archenemies. First appearance: AVENGERS SPECIAL #2

SCORPIO I

(Jacob "Jake" Fury) Younger brother of SHIELD leader Nick Fury. Joined criminal organization Zodiac and used the Zodiac Key, an other-dimensional power object, in attacks on his brother. Following his physical death, the Key recreated Jake Fury as an android. Creator and leader of Zodiac II. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #120

SENTINELS

Enormous humanoid robots designed to locate and to capture or kill superhuman mutants. Enemies of the X-Men. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #102

SENTRY

One of a large number of colossal humanoid robots created by the alien Kree to stand guard over their outposts and supply depots throughout the Kree Empire and in strategic points beyond. Sentry 459 joined Heavy Metal, a team of androids organized by the Super-Adaptoid. First Avengers appearance: (Sentry 459) AVENGERS #89, (Sentry 372) AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #80

SET

Demonic Elder God who manifests himself as a gigantic seven-headed serpent. Brought about the origin of the Serpent Men and the creation of the Serpent Crown. Seeks domination of Earth. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST ANNUAL #4

SHADOWLORD

(Real name unrevealed) Last known survivor of the Earth Lords, members of an ancient tribe who learned how to control the winds, water, and the surface of the Earth psionically. Shadowlord remained alive for centuries and was able to warn the Avengers about the Earth Lords' enemy, the Berserker. Now deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #207

SHI'AR

Alien humanoid race that rules a vast galactic empire, rivaling those of the Kree and Skrulls in size and power. Members of the Shi'ar race possess both avian and mammalian characteristics. Currently ruled by Lilandra. Recently conquered the Kree Empire. First Avengers appearance: (Deathbird) AVENGERS #189

SHOCKWAVE

(Lancaster Sneed) Renegade British intelligence agent who wears a costume that gives off electrical shockwaves when he touches someone or something. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #11

SHROUD

(Real name unrevealed) Costumed vigilante who poses as a criminal gang leader. Though physically blind, he possesses mystical extrasensory perception which enables him to "see" even in total darkness or through walls. Can create apertures into a dimension of darkness, from which he can project the dark, gaslike substance of that dimension. Former leader of the Night Shift. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 1 #1



SKRULLS

Sentient reptilian alien race that rules a vast galactic empire in the Andromeda Galaxy. Members possess shape-changing abilities. Longtime enemies of the Kree. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #91 (disguised as humans)

SONS OF THE SERPENT

Organization of costumed racist fanatics opposed to blacks and other minority groups. Recurring adversaries of the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS #32

SPACE PHANTOM

(Real name unrevealed) Native of the planet Phantus who became stranded in Limbo, where he was endowed by Immortus with the power to assume the form and powers of virtually any mortal being. When the Space Phantom takes the form of a person on Earth, that person is transported to Limbo, remaining there until the Space Phantom assumes another form. First appearance: AVENGERS #2

SPEED DEMON

(James Sanders, a. k. a. Whizzer III) Professional criminal with the power to move at superhuman speed. Former member of the Squadron Sinister.

First appearance: (as Whizzer III) AVENGERS #69

SPLIT-SECOND SQUAD

Team of bank robbers led by Kronus. Other members include Cap'n Skragg, Joe the Gorilla, Onionhead, Pecos, Pin-Stripe, and Sweet William. Adversaries of the Avengers and Taurus I. First appearance: AVENGERS #77

SQUADRON SINISTER

Team of criminals organized by the Grandmaster in imitation of members of the Squadron Supreme in order to fight the Avengers. Members included Doctor Spectrum II, Hyperion II, Nighthawk II, and Whizzer II. First appearance: AVENGERS #69

SQUADRON SUPREME

Team of costumed champions of the alternate Earth known as "Other-Earth" or "Earth-S." The Avengers first encountered the Squadron when several Avengers traveled to the Squadron's Earth, where the two teams together battled Brain-Child. Years later the Avengers clashed with the Squadron on both Earths when the Squadron had fallen under the control of the Serpent Cartel, "Other-Earth" businessmen who possessed a mystical Serpent Crown. Squadron members who have met

the Avengers include Hyperion I, Nighthawk I (now deceased), Whizzer II, Doctor Spectrum I, Skylark (a. k. a. Lady Lark), Blue Eagle (a. k. a. American Eagle II, Cap'n Hawk, now deceased), Amphibian (who has resigned), Black Archer (a. k. a. Hawkeye II, Golden Archer II, now deceased), and Tom Thumb (now deceased). The surviving members are now based in Project: Pegasus on the Avengers' Earth. First appearance: AVENGERS #85

STARFORCE

Team of superhuman Kree warriors that was organized by the Supreme Intelligence. Members include Captain Atlas, Doctor Minerva, Korath the Pursuer, Shatterax, Supremor, and Ultimus. After the Shi'ar conquered the Kree Empire, the remaining members of the Starforce served Deathbird, the Shi'ar viceroy governing the Kree. First appearance: AVENGERS #346

STARJAMMERS

Small band of space adventurers who have also operated as space pirates and as freedom fighters against unjust Shi'ar rulers. Operate primarily within the Shi'ar Galaxy. Led by Corsair. Other members include Binary, Ch'od, Hepzibah, Raza, and Sikorsky. Allies of Lilandra, Professor X, and the X-Men. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #350

STAR-STALKER

Mutant member of the Vorms, an alien race of sentient reptiles resembling dragons. His mutant powers enabled him to fly unharmed through outer space and to drain energy. Destroyed planets by absorbing energy in the form of ions. Adversary of the Avengers. Deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS #123

STINGER II

(Real name unrevealed) Businessman turned costumed criminal. Wields vibratory shock device and wrist-device that shoots a weapon on a cord that injects a victim with a sleep-inducing drug. First appearance: AVENGERS #179

STRANGER

(Real name unrevealed) Mysterious alien possessing vast cosmic and psionic powers, who collects and experiments upon beings with unusual powers from worlds throughout the universe. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #316

SUBTERRANEANS

Humanoid race that inhabits the underground caverns of Subterranea and that was genetically engineered from human beings by the Deviants to serve them as slaves. There are four separate sub-races of Subterraneans: the Moloids, who serve the Mole Man; the Tyrannoids, who serve Tyrannus; the Lava Men, who have superhuman powers; and the Gortokians, of whom Grotesk is the last known survivor. First Avengers appearance: (Grotesk) AVENGERS ANNUAL #20, (Lava Men) AVENGERS #5, (Moloids) AVENGERS #12, (Tyrannoids) AVENGERS ANNUAL #20

SUNSTROKE

(Real name unrevealed) Costumed mercenary who possesses the superhuman power to absorb, store, and discharge solar energy. Former servant of Dominus. First appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #17

SUPER-ADAPTOID

The original "adaptoid" android that was created by AIM scientists and that had the ability to take on

the appearance and abilities of human beings. Became known as the Super-Adaptoid due to the superhuman powers it adapted from members of the Avengers. Has long acted independently of AIM, even seeking to dominate the universe. Longtime enemy of Captain America. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #45

SUPERNALIA

Female member of the alien non-humanoid Ul'lula'n race who possessed vast psionic powers and could take the form of a golden-skinned female humanoid. Mate of Nebulon. Deceased. First appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #11

SUPERNOVA

(Garthan Saal) Warrior who is the sole survivor of the alien Xandarian race. Roughly thirty feet tall, possesses superhuman strength and durability, the ability to fly, and the power to discharge concussive energy blasts and intense heat. Seeks vengeance on Nebula for destroying the Xandarians. First appearance: AVENGERS #301

SUPER-SKRULL

(Kl'rt) Skrull warrior who was endowed by Skrull scientists with the superhuman powers of the Fantastic Four. First Avengers appearance: (impersonating Carol Danvers) AVENGERS #92, (in true form) AVENGERS #94

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE

Cybernetic/organic computer system incorporating the disembodied brains of the greatest statesmen and philosophers of Kree history, preserved cryogenically. Ruled the Kree Empire for untold ages. Although his physical self was killed by the Avengers following the Kree-Shi'ar War, the Supreme Intelligence's consciousness remains active. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #89

SURGE I

(Lt. Illarion Pavlovich Ramskov) Russian soldier who was mutated by exposure to atomic radiation. Can vaporize solid matter. Possesses superhuman strength. Battled the Avengers while he was temporarily insane. Apparently now uses his powers to benefit the Russian people. First appearance: AVENGERS #326

SURTUR

Monarch of the other-dimensional realm of Muspelheim, wielding vast powers, notably the ability to generate intense heat and flame. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #61

SVYATOGOR

(Sasha Pokryshkin) Russian who was exposed to heavy radiation that damaged his lungs and limbs but endowed him with superhuman strength and durability. His battlesuit enables him to fire energy blasts. Member of the Bogatyri. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #87

SYBIL DORN

High Lady of the Brethren. Formidable warrior who can project concussive energy beams from her eyes. Betrothed to Thane Ector. Killed by the Collector. First appearance: AVENGERS #334

TAIFU

(English translation: Typhoon; Toshio Sasaki) Japanese man rescued from a storm by Doctor Demonicus and endowed by him with the superhuman ability to create typhoon force winds. Demonicus sought to make Taifu one of his Pacific Overlords, but Taifu rebelled. Husband of Pele



and father of the former "Big One." First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #69

TASKMASTER

(Real name unrevealed) Professional criminal possessing "photographic reflexes" enabling him to duplicate without practice the physical movements (and hence fighting techniques) of others. Operates academies for combat training of criminals. First appearance: AVENGERS #195

TAURUS I

(Cornelius van Lunt) Corrupt businessman who financed the subversive organization Zodiac I and eventually became its leader. Was killed in a plane crash. First appearance: (as Taurus I) AVENGERS #72, (as van Lunt) AVENGERS #77

TEMPTRESS II

See Terminatrix.

TERMINATRIX

(Princess Ravonna Lexus Renslayer, a. k. a. Nebula II, Kang Nebula, Temptress II) Princess and ruler of a small kingdom conquered by Kang in the 41st Century of an alternate future Earth. After she was mortally injured Kang preserved her comatose body in suspended animation, hoping to find a way

to revive her. Resurrected by the Grandmaster, Ravonna impersonated the space pirate Nebula to take vengeance on Kang. When Kang apparently sacrificed his life to save hers, Ravonna decided to take over his empire. Note: An alternate timeline counterpart of Ravonna has become the consort of the time lord Immortus. First appearance: (as Ravonna) AVENGERS #23, (as Temptress II) AVENGERS #290

TERMINUS

Gigantic alien living being composed of organic metal who was genetically programmed to devastate all inhabited worlds that had been spared by the Celestials. Carries a lance through which he can absorb and discharge vast amounts of energy. Seemingly destroyed. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST ANNUAL #5 (Note: Terminus forced the Deviant Jorro to impersonate him in AVENGERS #256-257.)

TETRARCHS OF ENTROPY

Other-dimensional beings who claim to oversee the increase in chaos and entropy within the multiverse. Entrapped by the Avengers within the Dimension of Exile. Members include Hafga, Heml, Vug, and Yod. First mentioned: AVENGERS #327. First appearance: AVENGERS #329

THANE ECTOR

Warrior leader of the alien Brethren. Possessed superhuman strength and speed and the power to project concussive energy beams from his eyes. Betrothed to Sybil Dorn. Former enemy of the Avengers. Led the Brethren in their unsuccessful invasion of Earth. Died from the strain of uniting his race telepathically in order to defeat the Collector. First appearance: AVENGERS #334

THANOS

Eternal of Titan who has long sought to perpetrate massacres on a universe-wide scale. Has twice achieved virtual omnipotence, once through possession of a Cosmic Cube, and then through possession of the Infinity Gems. Brother of Eros (Starfox). First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #125

THAT WHICH ENDURES

Primordial life form created when the first living cell on Earth divided. This mutant genetic pattern then replicated itself within the cell's descendants. That Which Endures developed sentience, and millions of years later, That Which Endures's intelligence began to manifest itself every hundred thousand years in randomly selected living creatures. Its attempt to dominate the evolving race of superhuman mutants was thwarted by the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #47

TIPPIT, LEONARD

Seemingly ordinary man who unknowingly possessed immense latent powers that endangered the Earth. Removed from Earth by Uatu the Watcher. First appearance: AVENGERS #101

TITANIC THREE

Team of three former superhuman operatives of the Soviet government who became crimefighters in Communist Vietnam. Members included Crimson Dynamo III, the Radioactive Man, and Titanium Man I. Disbanded. First appearance: AVENGERS #130

TOAD

(Mortimer Toynbee) Mutant with superhuman jumping ability. Ally of Magneto; later rebelled against him and became ally of Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch. Later impersonated the Stranger to attack the Avengers. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #47

TRIUMVIRATE OF TERROR

Three criminal henchmen of the Mad Thinker, each equipped with devices (helmet, gauntlets, or boots) enabling him to strike an adversary with superhuman force. Included Hammerhead I, Piledriver I, and Thunderboot. First appearance: AVENGERS #39

TROGLODYTES

Community of highly inbred descendants of persecuted Britons. The Troglydtes dwell in caves near Garrett Castle's original location in Britain. Former adversaries of the Avengers. Last reported being reintegrated into contemporary British society. Led by Skol. First appearance: AVENGERS #115

TYPHON

Giant humanoid son of the gargantuan non-humanoid monster Typhoeus and an unnamed itaness. In recent times Typhon imprisoned the Olympian gods in another dimension but was defeated by Hercules, who rescued them. First appearance: AVENGERS #49



THANE ECTOR!

TYRAK

Atlantean warrior who through unknown means can increase his size and mass, enabling him to reach a height of 50 feet. Possesses far greater strength than a normal Atlantean. Ally of Attuma. First appearance: AVENGERS #154

TYRANNUS

(Romulus Augustulus) Last emperor of Rome, banished by Merlin to Subterranea, where he mastered a race of Subterraneans (the Tyrannoids), discovered ancient Deviant technology, and found a pool whose waters extended his life span and youthfulness. Has sought repeatedly in recent times to conquer the rest of Subterranea and the surface world. First Avengers appearance: (possessing Abomination's body) WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #25, (in own body) AVENGERS ANNUAL #20

UATU THE WATCHER

Member of the alien race of Watchers who observes and studies events on Earth. Resides in the Blue Area of Earth's moon. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #14

ULTRON

The most implacable of the Avengers' archfoes, Ultron is a sentient, virtually indestructible robot who has turned his malevolent cunning to an effort to exterminate all of humanity. Ironically, this diabolical machine originated as a seemingly harmless experiment by founding member Dr. Henry Pym.

Trying his hand at robotics, Pym created a non-humanoid automaton which he inadvertently endowed with a basic, childlike capacity for self-awareness and emotion. Driven by an intense Oedipal complex, Ultron at first tried to kill his "father" Pym but, having Pym at his mercy, instead hypnotized him into forgetting his very existence. (Later, after the Avengers' second clash with Ultron, Pym used an electronic device to regain his memory of creating the robot menace.) Alone in Pym's Cresskill, New Jersey laboratory, Ultron swiftly created a succession of four new bodies for its computer brain, each representing a tremendous advance on the previous one.

Transplanting his brain into the last of these, a grotesquely semi-humanoid form, Ultron took the name "Ultron-5" and undertook his first scheme to destroy both Pym and his allies, the Avengers.



Posing as a hooded human figure called the Crimson Cowl, Ultron hypnotized Avengers butler Edwin Jarvis into serving him and organized the second Masters of Evil team. The Avengers learned the Cowl's true identity and defeated the Masters, but Ultron remained at large.

Soon afterwards Ultron constructed an android servant who became known as the Vision, programming him with the brain patterns recorded from the supposedly deceased Wonder Man, and sent him to attack the Avengers. But the Vision turned against his creator, and in their ensuing battle Ultron struck a wall and exploded.

But Ultron's head was thrown clear of the blast, and weeks later, he exerted long-distance control over the Vision to force him to steal a vat of molten Adamantium, an alloy which, in solid form, is virtually indestructible. Ultron compelled the Vision to cast a new body for him from the molten metal.

Ever since then, Ultron has employed a succession of nearly invulnerable Adamantium bodies in his clashes with the Avengers and other foes. At one point the evil Inhuman Maximus attached Ultron's head to the body of the gigantic android Omega, and together they briefly disrupted the wedding of Quicksilver and the future Avenger Crystal. Later,

Ultron followed through on the logic of his Oedipal complex by kidnapping his "father's" wife, the



Wasp, and using her brain patterns to program a robotic mate for himself, named Jocasta. (Like the Vision, Jocasta too turned against Ultron and allied herself with the Avengers.)

Years later, two versions of Ultron existed simultaneously: Ultron-11, who carried on the previous models' hatred of Pym and the Avengers, and Ultron-12, who had reached a state of emotional maturity and sought a reconciliation with his "father." Inevitably, Ultron-11 attacked Ultron-12, whose memories and personality were erased by a power failure in the course of the battle. With the "death" of Ultron-12, all hope that the long-running feud between Ultron and the Avengers would end, seemed to vanish.

But Ultron is no longer merely a menace to Pym and his super hero allies: as the years have passed, Ultron's irrational hatred has grown to include not simply them as its objects, but all of humanity. As Ultron-13 he attempted to turn the entire human race into metallic robot slaves he called his "androides," beginning with members of the Avengers West Coast.

But even this was not enough for Ultron. Having assumed a new Adamantium body, Ultron declared his intention of obliterating not just humanity, but all plants and animals — all organic life on Earth. But first he captured Pym and Dr. Myron MacLain, inventor of Adamantium, and hypnotized them into creating for him a new robotic mate, Alkhema, alias War Toy, programmed with the brain patterns of West Coast Avenger Mockingbird.

The Vision, rebuilt and fully free from Ultron's control, teamed with the Avengers West Coast against these twin menaces. In a later encounter with the Avengers Alkhema rebelled against Ultron. But Ultron's hatred of the Avengers remains undiminished, and his war against them is far from over.

First appearance: (as Crimson Cowl) AVENGERS #54, (as Ultron) AVENGERS #55

U-FOES

Team of costumed criminals who were endowed with superhuman powers by cosmic radiation. Led by Vector. Other members are Ironclad, Vapor, and X-Ray. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #304

U-MAN

(Meranno) Atlantean with greater superhuman strength than most of his race, who was allied with Nazi Germany during World War II. More recently acted as ally of Attuma, then ruler of Atlantis, in his war against the surface world. First appearance: INVADERS #3

VIBRO

(Alton Francis Vibereaux) Costumed criminal with the superhuman ability to trigger earthquakes. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST Vol. 2 #58

VOICE

(Jason Cragg, a. k. a. "The Man with the Voice of Doom") Criminal with the superhuman ability to control other people through the sound of his voice. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #36

WAR TOY

(Alkhema) Robot built from Adamantium by Ultron to serve as his ally and mate. Alkhema's personality is based on the brain patterns of Mockingbird. Recently rebelled against Ultron. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #90



WEATHERMEN

Five crewmen of the weather-monitoring space shuttle Samarobryn whose minds were altered by the shuttle's sentient computer system. The computer outfitted the crewmen with battlesuits that gave them abilities to create destructive environmental phenomena. Defeated by the Avengers. First appearance: AVENGERS #210

WHIRLWIND

(David Cannon, a. k. a. Human Top II) Mutant criminal with the ability to rotate his body at superhuman speed. Longtime enemy of Henry Pym and the Wasp. Member of Masters of Evil II, III, and IV and Lethal Legion II. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #46

WHIZZER III

See Speed Demon.

WIZARD

(Bentley Wittman) Scientific genius and criminal mastermind. Specializes in creation of anti-gravity devices. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #227

WRECKER III

(Dirk Garthwaite) Criminal endowed with superhuman strength and durability. His crowbar is also enchanted, rendering it virtually indestructible. Leader of the Wrecking Crew. Member of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #273

WRECKING CREW

Team of costumed criminals who are led by Wrecker III, who shared his superhuman powers with them. Members include Bulldozer II, Piledriver II, and Thunderball. Members of Masters of Evil IV. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #273

YELLOW CLAW

(Real name unrevealed) Chinese mastermind and scientific genius who has long sought world conquest. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #204

YETRIGAR

Fur-covered "bigfoot" humanoid that was preserved in suspended animation within ice in a Canadian cavern. Released and mutated by an underground nuclear test, the creature grew to gigantic size. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #32

YMIR

Eldest and most powerful of the Ice Giants. Generates intense cold from his body. Longtime enemy of Asgard. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #61

ZARAN THE WEAPONS MASTER I

(Maximilian Zaran) Mercenary and assassin skilled in all known forms of armed and unarmed combat on Earth. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #11

ZEUS

(Roman names: Jupiter, Jove) Monarch of the Olympian gods. Possesses power to manipulate energy on a vast level, and is especially known for his ability to cast lightning bolts. Husband of Hera. Father of Hercules. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS #38

ZODIAC I

Subversive criminal organization founded by Cornelius Van Lunt (Taurus I). Each of its twelve leaders was born under a different zodiacal sign and took a costumed identity based upon that sign. The organization was finally wiped out by the android Zodiac II, led by Scorpio I, a traitorous member of the original Zodiac. First appearance: AVENGERS #72

ZODIAC II

Terrorist organization of androids created and led by Jacob Fury, a. k. a. Scorpio I. Each of the twelve android leaders of Zodiac I has a costumed identity based upon a different sign of the Zodiac. Zodiac II engages in criminal activities patterned on astrological themes. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #1

ZOLA, ARNIM

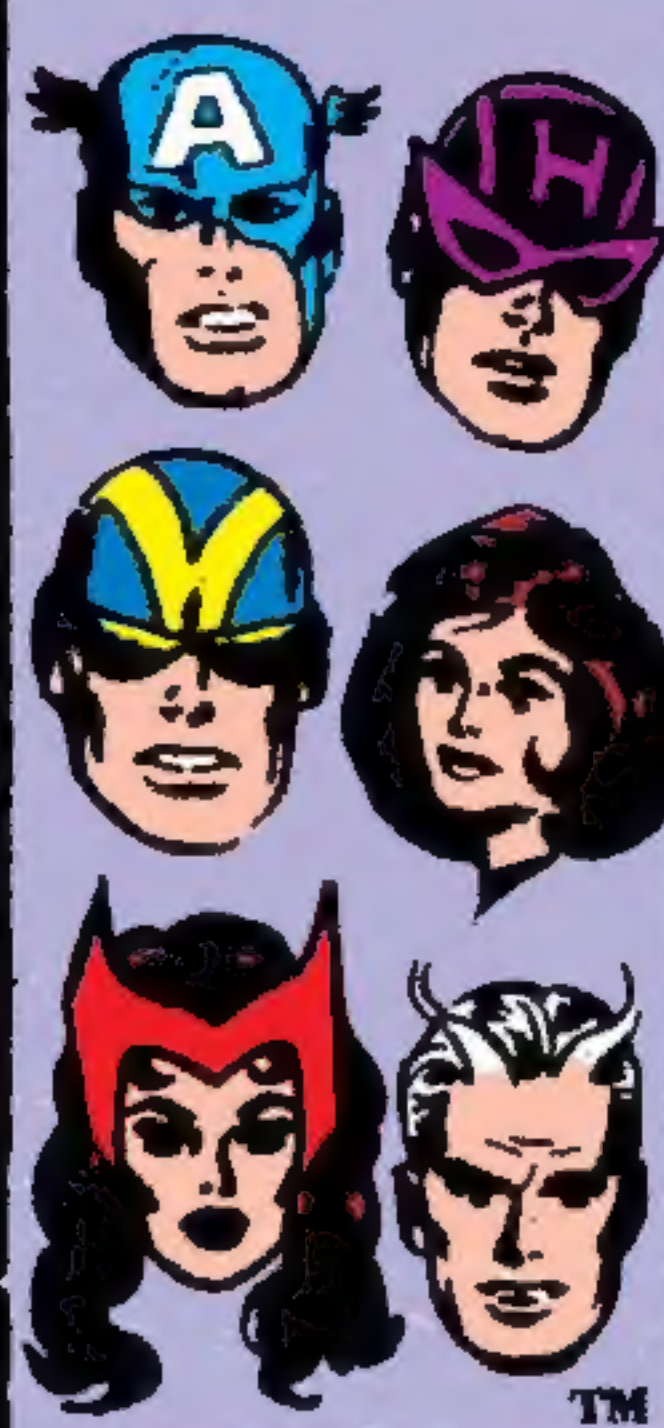
Nazi genetic engineer who transferred his consciousness into a new body he created that contains a brain within its trunk. First Avengers appearance: AVENGERS ANNUAL #13

ZVEZDA DENNISTA

(English translation: Morning Star; Marya Meshkov) Young female Russian geologist who gained the superhuman ability to generate flame over her body without harm to herself. Member of the Bogatyri. First appearance: AVENGERS WEST COAST #87

ZZZAX

Dangerous "electromagnetic intelligence" that possesses crude human-level intelligence and superhuman strength. Can fire powerful blasts of electricity. Former ally of Graviton. First Avengers appearance: WEST COAST AVENGERS Vol. 2 #12



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